Consumers face oil, water, transport price hikes

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001 ★★ 52 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 186 ₱15

Erap, Jinggoy get clean bill of health

By Martin P. Marfil

FATHER and son are fit to leave the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City and return to a detention center in Laguna, according to a medical bulletin issued by two government doctors.

"They are physically fit to travel," Liberato Casison, head of the VMMC department of medicine, said of ousted President Joseph Estrada

ERAP/ A14

Loi speaks Erap's language

By A. Young
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The opening salvo of former first lady, Dr. Loi Ejercito-Estrada, was vintage Erap: the rich versus

LOI/ A13

MAS MAGALING NAMAN ANG ASAWA KO SA KANYA!

'No ceasefire, ransom, deal'

Door open to talks for hostages' release

TOUGH talk from President Macapagal who declares, "We will meet fire with fire, and more" and "show no mercy" for civilians who help the kidnappers. JOAN BONDOC

By Juliet Javellana, Rocky Nazareno and Alexander M. Young

RETURNING to her original hardline position, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said there would be "no ransom, no deal, no ceasefire, no suspension of military operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits."

The President grimly warned that a "long and bloody war" might be needed to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf.

"The Abu Sayyaf is a scourge to our race. They are a curse to their religion. We will not stop the campaign until we have cleansed Basilan and Sulu of the Abu Sayyaf forces," she said.

The President also said the Philippines no longer needed Malaysian assistance in mediating with the bandits for the release of 28 American and Filipino hostages.

Ms Macapagal said the original request for two Malaysian negotiators had been overtaken by events.

"That is academic. (Abu Sayyaf spokesperson) Abu Sabaya said there would be no more negotiations," the President said at a news conference in Malacañang.

She said Sabaya effectively ended all talks with the government after claiming to have beheaded American hostage Guillermo Sobero. *(Related story on this page.)*

Sobero is one of three Americans held by the bandits in Basilan, along with 25 Filipino hostages.

On Tuesday, two headless bodies of Filipinos were found near where Sabaya said Sobero would be dumped. The military identified the bodies as being two Basilan residents executed after posing as government negotiators.

Sabaya warned the Abu Sayyaf would execute the two other Americans, missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, and called off negotiations.

NO CEASEFIRE/ A14

2 headless bodies found in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops have found three bodies in Basilan, but none belonged to the American hostage whom the Abu Sayyaf bandits claimed to have beheaded.

An Associated Press report quoted Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command, as saying yesterday that the troops found three Filipino bodies, including the beheaded corpse of a Muslim cleric, near where the bandits seized 15 people from the Golden Harvest plantation Monday in Lantawan town.

The cleric, believed to be Mohaimen Latip, was said to have contacted the bandits to try to negotiate the release of the hostages, officials said.

The identities of the other two bodies were not clear, but officials said they did not belong to any of the estimated 28 hostages of the Abu Sayyaf, including three Americans and six Filipinos belonging to an initial batch taken from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez earlier said a second beheaded body had been found in the area. It was not clear if the body was one of the three cited by the military.

But officials earlier reported that the Abu Sayyaf yesterday beheaded Latip and Sammy Maurip.

Latip's headless corpse was supposedly found in Tipo-Tipo town, and that of Maurip, near Sumisip town.

2 HEADLESS/ A14

BURNED residence is one of several torched by the Abu Sayyaf bandits at the Golden Harvest Plantation, Barangay Tairan, Lantawan, Basilan, where they seized 15 more hostages on June 11. DENNIS SABANGAN

Sobero kin tie yellow ribbons on palm trees

CORONA, California—The family of US citizen Guillermo Sobero, whom the Abu Sayyaf bandits claimed they had beheaded, anxiously awaited news of his fate as friends tied yellow ribbons around palm trees.

Photographers and TV satellite trucks ringed the 40-year-old Sobero's modest one-story Spanish-style bungalow Tuesday. His wife, Fanny, and the rest of his family waited inside, not appearing or speaking to reporters.

Outside, neighbors Trish Dobson and Cherrill Renwick put up the yellow ribbons on trees lining the quiet street in this bedroom community 73 kilometers southeast of Los Angeles—a now common ritual when US citizens are missing or held hostage abroad.

"Everybody is concerned," next-door neighbor Manuel Contreras told reporters after visiting the Sobero home to see if there was any news. "Right now we do not know exactly what is going on."

Fanny is "handling it quite well, but she's extraordinarily anxious," said Contreras, who described himself as Sobero's "best friend."

In Washington, James Kelly, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said at a congressional hearing that Sobero's fate remained unclear.

"There is apparently some very sad news, the possible execution of an American hostage seized by terrorists in the southern part of the Philippines," Kelly told the East Asia and Pacific subcommittee of the House international relations committee.

He added: "If this sad news is true, this would be something we would feel very seriously concerned (about), not to mention sympathetic to the family of the American citizen . . . who may well have suffered."

"I would add that two additional American hostages are detained by these thugs and crooks . . . This is not an attractive situation."

Kelly was referring to mission-

SOBERO/ A14

GMA plans to activate anti-kidnap superbody

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, concerned about the kidnapping of four Singaporeans since April, yesterday said a "superbody" would soon be formed to coordinate and revitalize the government's drive against kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

"We are giving the highest priority to this," Ms Macapagal said during a televised news conference.

The President issued the statement following news reports that kidnap-for-ransom syndicates are again active in Metro Manila, with Singaporean businessmen as their main targets instead of rich Chinese-Filipinos, their customary prey.

Reports said that at least four Singaporeans had been kidnapped since April. The latest victim, Roger Yeo Cheow Meng, was abducted on June 1 from his Muntinlupa City office by a group of armed men. He was released after eight days in captivity after his wife gave the kidnappers S$300,000 (P8.4 million) in ransom.

Ms Macapagal said an executive order was being readied to create the superbody. Composed mainly of the justice, interior and defense departments, the superbody would ensure that kidnappers are quickly caught and prosecuted.

The President said she first broached the plan of establishing an anti-crime superbody to the Chinese-Filipino community in March.

She said she asked the Armed Forces to help provide skills training for the prospective operatives of the superbody. The training is due to be completed in two weeks.

"We've not forgotten to do our homework for that," she said.

GMA/ A14

FILE PHOTO/VAL HANDUMON

A FOLK hero of sorts to his constituents in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Aguinaldo declared war on the Aquino administration on March 4, 1990.

NPA: Aguinaldo deserved to die

By Carlito Pablo, Juliet Javellana and PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

"COLONEL Aguinaldo had expected this fate. His death is long past the appropriate time."

Thus declared the communist New People's Army (NPA) yesterday in claiming responsibility for the killing of Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and his policeman-driver in Tuguegarao City in Cagayan on Tuesday night.

In a three-page statement in Filipino, the NPA's Fortunato Camus Command in Cagayan Valley said Aguinaldo, a former intelligence officer during the Marcos dictatorship, "deserved to die" because of "his long list of heinous crimes against the people."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the killing of Aguinaldo was "a police matter, not an insurgency" activity.

But Interior Secretary Jose Lina said the NPA's involvement was one of the angles being looked into by the police.

"We're still in the process of investigating the case and there have been some leads. That's one of the angles being looked into," Lina said in a press conference.

Police officials ordered an intensified hunt throughout Cagayan Valley for the three men who gunned down Aguinaldo and his aide, SPO1 Joey Garro, near the congressman's rented apartment in Tuguegarao.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley police director, said the victims were shot "at point-blank range" by "professional hired killers."

A Task Force Agui has been formed to pursue the killers. Investigators identified them as Gerald Evangelista, Gener Villanueva Bulusan and a certain Jun, all of Isabela.

Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair

NPA/ A13

He wanted his death to be swift

By Estanislao Caldez, Cristina Arzadon and Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Considered a folk hero to many in the province, Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo told his close friends and family members three weeks ago that should he die or be killed, he wanted it fast and swift.

He got his wish Tuesday night. Aguinaldo, 54, and his security aide, SPO1 Joey Garro, were gunned down by communist assassins as they were walking toward the congressman's apartment in Barangay Centro here.

Aguinaldo made it clear to his family and friends that he did not want his body placed in a coffin. He also told them that he should be buried after a day's wake.

Those wishes, however, were not granted.

His remains now lie in a coffin at the Kamaranan Hall of the provincial capitol to allow hundreds of local officials and residents to pay their last respects.

Aguinaldo served as a three-term

HE/ A13

Second FRONT PAGE

ANO BA YAN?
SABAY-SABAY!

Triple whammy for consumers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMERS are in for a triple whammy, with a new oil price hike looming even as water rates and transportation fares are angling for increases.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday said prices of petroleum products could rise by 90 to 96 centavos per liter in the next two weeks.

Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said in a telephone interview that a price hike was inevitable because of the recent rise in world crude prices and the deterioration of the peso.

"Crude prices have gone up to almost $27 per barrel while the peso has deteriorated to more than P51 to the dollar, and current oil prices are based on these rates," Gamboa said.

He said one of the options being considered by Shell was to implement a 25-centavo-per-liter increase every week or every two weeks "to make it less difficult for the public."

Transportation groups said they would push for an increase in fares if oil prices were to go up again.

Petron, another oil major, said a price increase of at least 50 centavos was imminent.

Petron officials said these this would cover price changes for May. If the changes for June were to be included, Petron would need to increase its products by 90 centavos like Shell, the officials said.

Other oil companies have refused to comment on the Shell statement saying they were "studying conditions in the world market."

One of the three oil majors—Shell, Petron and Caltex Phil.—usually take the lead in any price move.

Industry sources say that contrary to allegations of "cartelization," intense competition in the domestic market prompts the oil firms to follow suit whenever one of them moves to increase its prices.

Gamboa said the country is now using petroleum products bought at prices above $24 per barrel.

He does not foresee crude prices falling in the next few months.

He said the only way for the country to cope is to conserve its oil supply.

"This (price situation) is not unique in the Philippines, it is also happening in countries in other parts of the world," Gamboa said.

He said even the United States was calling for the conservation of its oil supply.

Oil prices last rose on May 24 by 45 to 50 centavos per liter.

Even before that, Eastern Petroleum Corp. president Fernando Martinez had warned that oil companies would need to raise prices by as much as 80 centavos to a peso per liter.

ABU SAYYAF'S WAKE DENNIS SABANGAN
An Army soldier helps an old woman through the debris and ashes of what used to be her house and belongings in Barangay Tairan in Lantawan, Basilan, after Abu Sayyaf bandits raided her village on Tuesday.

Radio blackout creates Freedom Day scare

POLICE and media two-way radios went dead in Metro Manila on Independence Day, prompting speculation the Abu Sayyaf rebel group was behind the loss of communication.

National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio, however, was quick to discount the involvement of the bandit group as he revealed that "it was just a technical problem."

"There was interference in the repeater system caused by the regular maintenance check of the Metro Rail Transit," Rio explained.

He said the MRT people did not know they were causing the interference that took the NTC more than 12 hours to locate.

"It was reported to us at around 3 p.m. last Tuesday, but we were only able to locate the source of the problem early yesterday morning. We had to use the triangulation method and this takes time," Rio said.

The triangulation method involves locating radio signals by means of a directional antenna.

The MRT's radio communications system was shut down at around 6 a.m. yesterday, after which all two-way radio communication went back to normal.

"The problem has been solved, although we are conducting a formal investigation. We will also try to come up with faster ways to locate problems like these," Rio said.

He said that the 12 hours it took to find the source of the problem was actually fast, considering it usually took one day to do so.

"We still need to improve our equipment, however high tech they may already be," he said.

He added that the NTC will come up with more stringent procedures to make sure the problem does not happen again. *Abigail L. Ho*

PEACE TALKS

Gov't negotiators vow to be flexible

DAVAO CITY—The government panel will not necessarily stick to the "road map" sketched out by its technical committee at the peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which are set to formally open on June 20 in Tripoli, Libya.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, the presidential assistant for regional concerns-Southern Mindanao who chairs the government panel, said there might be instances when negotiating strategies would have to be bent a little to avoid an impasse.

"The path to negotiations is similar to a road. Sometimes, there may be need for a detour. We have to avoid any stumbling blocks in the negotiations," Dureza said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved a "shifting venue" for the talks, Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said without elaborating.

On to Tripoli

Government negotiators are getting ready to leave for Tripoli to be there for the opening of negotiations, Ermita told a news conference.

There had been concerns the peace talks could be derailed after the military accused the MILF of providing sanctuary to the smaller Abu Sayyaf group.

MILF leaders denied the accusation, saying they had no organizational links with the Abu Sayyaf who are holding three Americans and 25 Filipinos as hostages on the island of Basilan.

The Libyan government last year helped broker the freedom of dozens of foreigners and locals in a similar hostage crisis involving the Abu Sayyaf.

It offered to help this time, but Ms Macapagal has said she was confident the military operations would lead to the rescue of the hostages and the destruction of the Abu Sayyaf.

Negotiation strategy

Dureza yesterday presented to the President the panel's draft negotiation strategy, which had been finalized by a technical working group during a two-day session in Davao City.

Among the members of the group which drafted the document were Moro National Liberation Front secretary general Muslimin Sema, former presidential assistant Paul Dominguez, Irene Santiago, Dr. Emily Marohomsar, Lanao del Sur Governor Mahid Mutilan and Ebrahim Paglas III, a former mayor of Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, who is a nephew of MILF chair Salamat Hashim.

Dureza would not speculate on how the government would deal with the hardline pro-independence stance of the MILF. "That was not raised when we met in Kuala Lumpur during the exploratory talks. If I answer that, then I would be speculating already," Dureza said.

But he said territorial issues could be raised at any time during the talks.

Dureza also said the government will take into consideration the MNLF's suggestion that the peace talks should revolve around the 1996 peace agreement with the MNLF.

No separate deal

"We will see how it could come into the picture," he said.

Sema has said the government cannot afford to forge a separate deal with the MILF as this would disregard the 1996 peace accord with the MNLF.

But Dureza said there could be many reference points, including the Constitution and RA 9054, or The New Organic Law for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Dureza said autonomy for the MILF was never discussed during the technical committee meeting, which limited its discussions to formulating a framework to serve as a guideline for the government during the negotiations.

He said both sides have the same objective: to make peace and development the priority in the areas of conflict. *Allan A. Nawal, Joel B. Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AFP*

Correction

(The headline, "Moro peace panel eyes MNLF model," which appeared on page 2 of the June 13, 2001 issue of the INQUIRER, should have read, "Gov't peace panel eyes MNLF model.")

Immigration exec in hot water over entry of Yakuza suspects

By TJ Burgonio

A HIGH-LEVEL immigration official is under fire for allegedly allowing three suspected Yakuza members to enter the country after they had been barred by airport immigration authorities.

A fuming Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday ordered a full-scale investigation into the incident, which involved her deputy, Associate Commissioner Arthel Caronungan.

Domingo, who is the only authorized to lift an order barring the entry of a foreign national, pointed out that an exclusion order against suspected Yakuza members cannot be withdrawn under any circumstances.

"An exclusion order against other nationals can be lifted but that still depends on the reasons cited," she said.

Caronungan defended his move, claiming that "we can give them conditional admission."

"There is no convincing proof that they are Yakuza members, just a suspicion," Caronungan said.

When asked if he was aware that only the immigration commissioner can lift an exclusion order, Caronungan said: "We'll have to check that."

He said he would welcome an investigation.

Domingo also demanded an explanation from Gerry Medina, duty supervisor at the immigration unit at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport who cleared the entry of the Japanese on orders of Caronungan.

"I was only following orders," Medina said.

Investigation showed that Caronungan called and then faxed a marginal note to Medina to admit the Japanese, pointing out that they were regular visitors to the country and that one was even married to a Filipina.

Hisatsugu Yokose, 38; Massaki Shimura and Yoshihisa Seshimo, 56, were ordered barred from Manila and returned to Narita after they were profiled as Yakuza members. They had tattoos all over their bodies.

Tuition revolt

MILITANT groups yesterday started the series of protests leading to the massive Kilusang Boykot as colleges and universities opened amid the perennial complaints against another round of tuition hike this year.

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines and the National Union of Students of the Philippines launched the Kilusang Boykot, which would facilitate the local protest actions in the various tertiary schools in Metro Manila.

Now, it's Dick's turn to face graft charges

By Jerry Esplanada

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority has filed graft charges with the Ombudsman against its former chair, Richard Gordon, now tourism secretary, for the alleged misuse of almost P400 million in public funds.

The funds, amounting to P387 million, were part of P855 million in allegedly "questionable disbursements" made by the SBMA during Gordon's time, according to a complaint filed by Antonio Mendoza, head of the SBMA internal audit department.

The case was filed after the Commission on Audit "disallowed with finality (Gordon's) unliquidated expenses" as SBMA head.

Final and executory

"The COA ruling is final and executory and under the law becomes a personal liability of the respondents," Mendoza said.

Also named respondents in the graft case were former SBMA officials Julie Reyes, treasurer; Leticia Doropan, personnel manager; Teresita Fallorina, accountant; and Armin Raquel-Santos, deputy administrator for finance.

The Ombudsman has asked the respondents to answer the SBMA complaint.

Recently, the Ombudsman filed charges against Gordon's successor, Felicito Payumo, and SMBA investor Antonio Lopa over an allegedly irregular deal involving a scheme to offset rental arrears of Lopa. Payumo allegedly received a bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban from Lopa.

Mendoza said in his complaint that Gordon had "allowed the payment of salaries of thousands of volunteers who were supposed to be working, as claimed by Gordon himself, on voluntary basis."

"If indeed they were volunteers who did not receive their salaries and wages, who then received the hundreds of millions of pesos as shown in the payroll?" Mendoza asked.

In April 1998, the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption recommended to then President Ramos the dismissal of Gordon for his alleged failure as SBMA chair and administrator to account for millions of pesos in state funds. The Palace, however, did not act on the PCAGC's recommendation.

'Illegal' purchase

The SBMA has also called on the Ombudsman for early resolution of another graft case against Gordon, this time involving 20 imported Ford pick-up trucks worth $407,540.50 (about P20.7 million). The case was filed in February.

The pick-up trucks were allegedly illegally purchased by the SBMA under Gordon.

In a motion for submission of the case for early resolution, Mendoza and another complainant, former Zambales judge Gualberto dela Llana noted that Gordon and his co-accused, lawyer Manuel Quijano, had been granted by the Ombudsman at least six extensions to file their counter-affidavits.

Gordon and Quijano, however, "failed to submit these up to the last extension on May 3."

The complainants charged that the extensions were a "scheme to delay the early resolution of the case."

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All accounted for, Maceda says of Washington staffers

By Rocky Nazareno

FORMER Ambassador to US Ernesto Maceda yesterday accounted for the members of his personal staff who had joined him at his Washington posting in 1999.

"They are legal and accounted for," Maceda told the INQUIRER, reacting to reports Wednesday that he faced an investigation for bringing into the US 25 persons purporting to be members of his staff when other envoys were only allowed three or four personal staffers.

Maceda said the efforts to accuse him of "human smuggling" were "part of the continuing harassment by the administration of the opposition."

Maceda resigned the ambassadorship last December to be spokesman for ousted President Joseph Estrada who was then in the thick of his impeachment trial.

Maceda later helped manage the opposition's senatorial campaign for the May 14 elections. He was also cited as one of those who allegedly instigated the angry protests and violent assault on the presidential palace last May 1.

"As (former Foreign) Secretary (Domingo) Siazon said, it would be impossible to bring 25 (persons into the US)," Maceda said.

He said Siazon only allowed him to bring seven persons to Washington as his househelp.

Of the seven given official passports by the DFA, he said Dalmacio Lim Jr., who was to be his personal valet, was not granted a visa by the US Embassy.

Lim, an Ateneo law graduate, was one of the Aquila Legis fraternity members who were sentenced to 14 years in prison for the hazing death of Leny Villa 10 years ago.

The case is pending at the Court of Appeals.

Maceda said that one year after he brought the six to the US, three came back because they missed their families.

"The official passports of the three were revoked and they could be accounted for," he said.

To take up the workload left behind by the three who came back, Maceda said he asked for replacements for them.

Maceda said that being a premier post, the embassy in Washington has a big number of visitors, including a steady influx of Philippine officials who come to the US on official business.

"Every week we have so many functions at the embassy," he said.

When he returned to Manila to be the opposition's campaign manager, Maceda said three of the six househelp stayed behind in Washington.

He said the three went on to assume "legal employment in the US and have since surrendered their official passports."

"One of them, Bernadette Torres, is now working for the Egyptian Embassy there," he said.

The two others have since acquired the appropriate papers to be able to work in the US and are now legally employed, he said.

MACEDA

Ernie's case to be refiled in lower court

STATE prosecutors yesterday sought to withdraw the rebellion case against former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, so they could refile it before the Metropolitan Trial Court.

State prosecutors led by Danilo A. Formoso asked QC Branch 104 Judge Thelma A. Ponferrada to allow them to withdraw the case "due to an oversight."

"(The case) was inadvertently filed with the honorable court instead of the MTC, which has proper jurisdiction," the government lawyers said in their petition to the QC court.

MTCs hear criminal cases that carry a penalty of six years or less. Cases with prison terms of more than six years are heard by the regional trial courts.

Maceda was charged with conspiracy to commit rebellion for his alleged role in the foiled attempt to take over the presidential palace on May 1. He allegedly incited the pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine to march to Malacañang and topple the Macapagal administration.

The crowd eventually marched but was stopped at the palace gates by thousands of soldiers and policemen.

Ponferrada ordered Maceda's lawyers to comment on the prosecution's petition within five days.

State prosecutor Anthony Fadullo, who heads the DOJ team handling the case, confirmed the withdrawal.

"The jurisdiction is with the MTC, not the RTC. We refiled the case with the MTC," he said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Maceda said the transfer of the case was "proof that a warrantless arrest was not proper."

Maceda had surrendered and posted bail rather than face a warrantless arrest during the "emergency" called by President Macapagal in the aftermath of the disturbance.

He said refiling the case with the MTC was only meant to "justify the improper hold order" issued against him by the DOJ. *Philip C. Tubeza and Rocky Nazareno*

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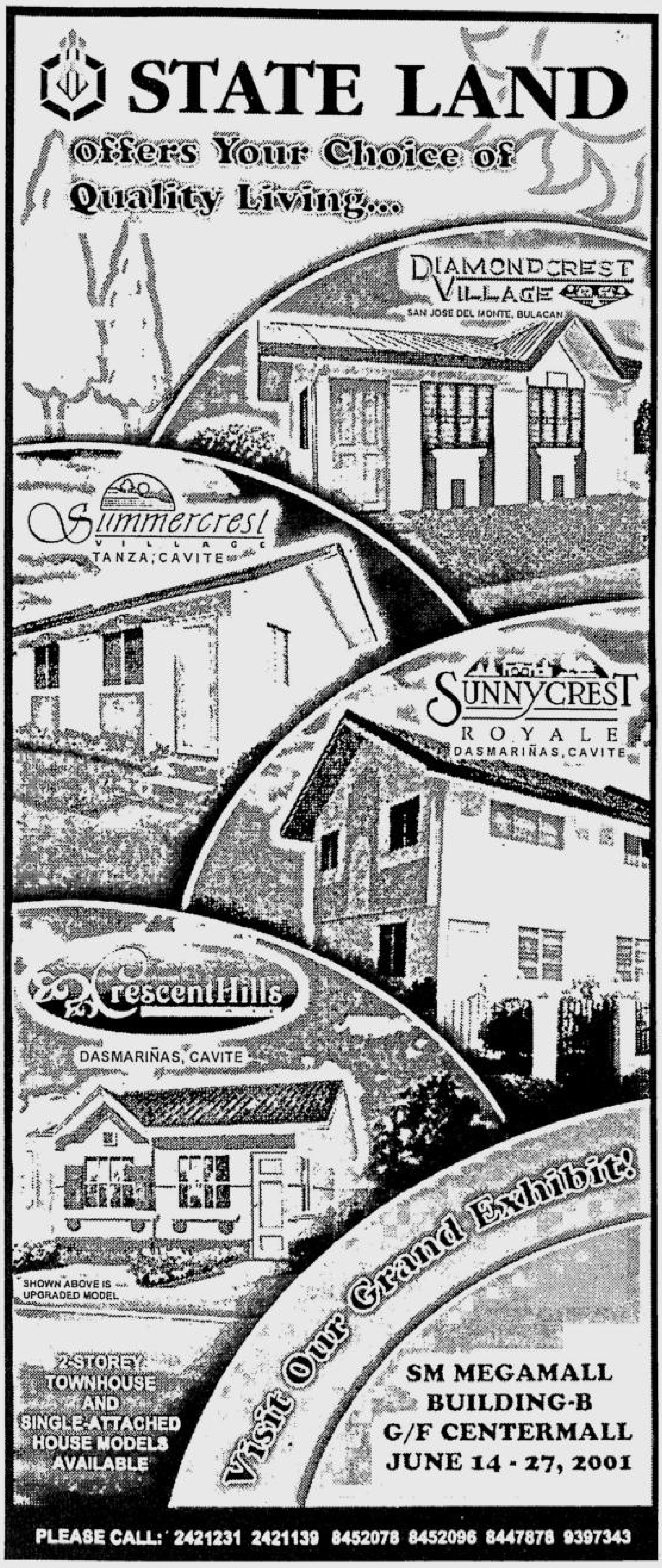

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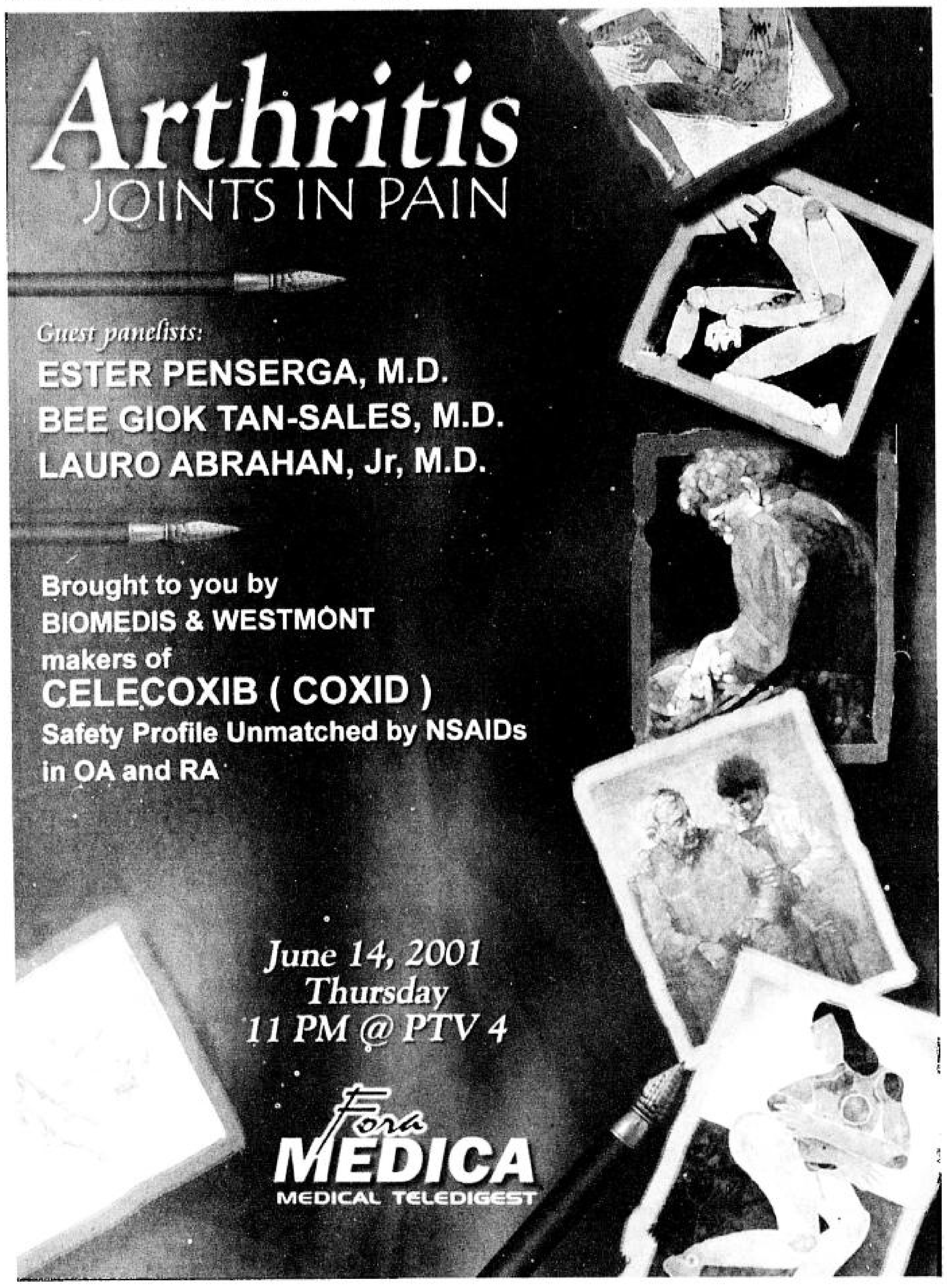

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SOLON'S OATH

Representative-elect Erwin Chiongbian takes his oath of office before House of Representatives secretary general Roberto Nazareno following his recent proclamation as congressman of Sarangani. Looking on is Mrs. Nancy M. Chiongbian.

7 Malaysian cops held for Pinoy's death

KUALA LUMPUR—Seven Malaysian police officers have been arrested in connection with the death of a Filipino during a failed breakout from a detention camp for illegal immigrants, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The seven were guards at the Meggatal detention center in Sabah state who found 12 illegal immigrants, all Filipinos, trying to escape by breaking through floorboards in their room on June 4, the New Straits Times reported.

The police and the detainees scuffled during the attempted breakout, and at least one man was injured. He died later in hospital, the report said.

District police chief Hamdan Mohammad was cited as saying the officers had been detained and were helping investigators.

Sabah is on the northeastern tip of Borneo island and is connected to the southern Philippines by two strings of islands in the Sulu and Celebes seas.

Up to 300,000 Filipinos live legally in Sabah and thousands more each year make the short crossing to enter Malaysia illegally looking for work.

Malaysian authorities have stepped up patrols along borders with its poorer neighbors Indonesia and the Philippines to cope with what they say is an influx of illegal immigrants caused by economic and social unrest at home. *AP*

Donors continue aid for Mindanao

DESPITE the hostage crisis in Basilan, the United Nations and donor countries have agreed to continue their support for the government's peace and development efforts in Mindanao, and provide emergency relief assistance to civilians and displaced by armed conflict.

"Recent events are a deathly reminder of how difficult and long that quest has been and what remains to be achieved in securing sustainable peace and development in Southern Philippines," said Terence Jones, UN System Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative in the Philippines. "Such setbacks may be useful signals in calling forward new levels of commitment and effort from all concerned with building on the foundations of peace and development."

Jones led the UN while charge d' affaires of Australia Tony Melville represented his government in signing ceremonies yesterday wherein the latter committed an additional US$7.7 million to help finance the third phase of the GOP (Government of the Philippines)/UN Multi-Donor Program for Mindanao.

The amount constitutes almost one-third of the total project cost of $25.7 million, which the UN and donor countries have committed in a cost-sharing agreement intended to cover the third phase of the program. Aside from Australia, New Zealand is also one of the donors.

The third phase provides for stakeholder participation in its management. It particularly involves the government under the direction of Interact-Mindanao (Interagency Committee for Relief, Rehabilitations and Development of Areas Affected by Armed Conflicts in Mindanao), local governments, Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, the Moro National Liberation Front, other communities, and the international community as well.

Started last May, this phase aims to strengthen the foundations for lasting peace and development in Southern Philippines through capacity development and confidence building at all levels of government—community, local, regional and national, to achieve the overall goal of sustained peace.

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Roco hits Lakas for Joe de V bid

By Blanche S. Rivera

IS the People Power Coalition coming undone?

Yesterday the Aksyon Demokratiko lambasted the Lakas-NUCD for trying to dominate the coalition in its bid to install Jose de Venecia as speaker of the new House of Representatives.

The PPC is made up of the Lakas-NUCD, Aksyon Demokratiko, Reporma, Promdi and Liberal parties. Its titular head is President Macapagal-Arroyo who also leads Lakas.

Aksyon Demokratiko president Raul Roco said that despite "the illusions of some political spokesmen," President Macapagal has not endorsed a candidate for speaker.

Roco said that congressmen belonging to the PPC should "interact with one other as equals" in the selection of a candidate for the top House post.

The former senator and now education chief said that at a meeting on June 8, PPC members resolved that all groups in the alliance were "similarly situated" and were not compelled to follow Lakas.

"To our knowledge, President Macapagal has not designated a single dominant party ascendant to others who toiled for the success of the PPC." Roco said in a statement yesterday.

He said that since the days leading up to the fall of the Estrada administration, the other parties have been working with the President and were in no way subordinate to Lakas.

Lakas has been persistent in wanting to return De Venecia to the speakership, a position he held in the 10th Congress, despite stiff opposition from the other PPC members and civil society groups.

The anti-De Venecia bloc in the House said the former speaker is a traditional politician who could not bring about the new kind of leadership civil society groups want.

Among the other contenders for the speakership are Representatives Raul del Mar of Cebu, Florencio "Butch" Abad of Batanes, Vicente Sandoval of Palawan and Prospero Pichay of Surigao.

ALL FOR ONE... Consultation and consensus building for the speakership are (from left) Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval of Lakas (with back to the camera), Aksyon Demokratiko's Raul Roco, Reporma's Renato de Villa, Batanes Rep. Butch Abad of the Liberal Party, Cebu Rep. Raul del Mar of Promdi; (standing behind) Promdi Party List Rep. Joy Young, Reporma secretary general Jose Mari Gerochi, and Liberal Party director general Ely Quinto.

No. 13 terrifies Gringo

By Armand N. Nocum

HONASAN

SENATOR-ELECT Gregorio Honasan is determined to fight his way out of the unlucky 13th slot in the Senate race.

The ex-Army colonel and fearless leader of six failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration admits to being uncomfortable in the 13th place.

Honasan's triskaidekaphobia—fear of the number 13—has been aggravated by the recent killing of his friend and military colleague, Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, who was fatally shot while walking toward his apartment, which was numbered 13-B.

"That's why I really want to try very hard to get out of my 13th slot," Honasan told Senate reporters.

Honasan and Aguinaldo were leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, a reformist group of young military officers formed during the Marcos dictatorship.

Honasan said he and his lawyers are determined to take all legal steps to ensure that he lands in the 12th slot.

Among the legal issues that he said he would raise was that while in the Namfrel count, he was 80,000 votes ahead of Recto, the Comelec proclamation count had him trailing Recto by 20,000.

"We will have to reconcile the municipal count with the provincial count and the final count in the Comelec. It's just a process of reconciling all these figures and discrepancies," he said.

Honasan, who claims to be leading Recto in an special vote count in Lanao del Sur, said he may yet accept being in 13th place "as long as we are convinced that the (voting and counting) process has been clean, credible, honest and fair."

But he said he did not find the elections credible at this point.

Asked in a telephone interview whether he has a fear of the number 13, Recto said the thought never even crossed his mind.

He said he was very confident of his standing.

"I'm not superstitious, but we are very confident that I can stay at No. 12," he told the INQUIRER.

He also claims to be leading Honasan by as many as 50,000 votes in Lanao del Sur.

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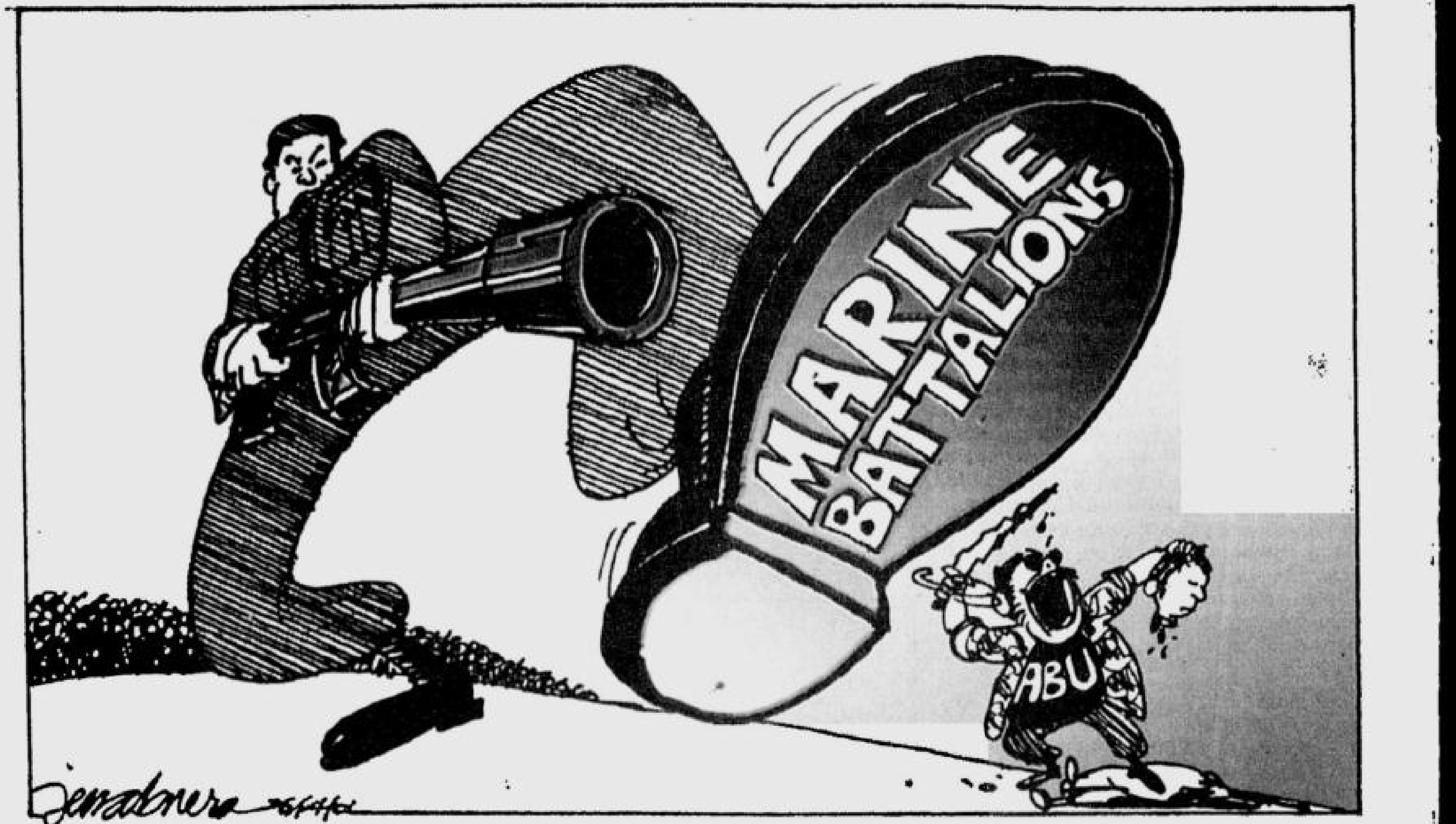

Radio Abu Sayyaf

EDITORIAL

TWO headless bodies have been found in Basilan but neither was that of an American hostage. Guillermo Sobero, whom the Abu Sayyaf said (thanks to the facilities of Radio Mindanao Network) it had executed after its impossible demands were not met.

RMN should by now be renamed Radio Abu Sayyaf. What that bandit group got in ransom money during last year's Sipadan hostage-taking would be more than enough to maintain the salaries of the RMN staff and its operations, but this is a secondary point in the Basilan hostage-taking. The Abu Sayyaf has used RMN to propagate outrageous claims that paint the government and the entire nation as hostage to its demands.

Abu Sabaya, the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson, announced Tuesday that the group had beheaded Sobero as an Independence Day gift to the Philippine government. The announcement was an insult to the government and the nation, and a slap in the face of the US government, three of whose citizens are being held by the Abu Sayyaf. This group has a mixed record of carrying out its threats. Last year, it executed two hostages as a "birthday gift" to former President Estrada. These are sadistic acts beyond compare. But in other cases, the threats turned out to be a bluff.

No words have been spared to condemn the episodic executions by the Abu Sayyaf. It is clear by now that there is only one thing that its members respect: fire meeting with fire. One hopes that it is bluffing on Sobero, but no one should underestimate the group's capacity for treachery and brutality.

The Abu Sayyaf broadcast through its friendly medium the announcement that it had beheaded Sobero after the government allegedly refused to allow Malaysian ex-Sen. Sairin Karno to serve as negotiator, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's condemnation of the Abu Sayyaf's acts of terrorism, and the continued military operations against it.

On the first demand, the government did try to engage Malaysia in the negotiations, but Kuala Lumpur was apprehensive that the proposed negotiators would also be held hostage. Gadhafi's condemnation was beyond the government's control. And lifting military pressure does not ensure the hostages would be released.

The Abu Sayyaf's demands are non-negotiable, which means that the bandits have left the government no choice but to go all out to exterminate them, no matter the cost. No government can allow itself to be humiliated by a band of terrorists or to negotiate with them on their own terms.

The government, at the risk of being criticized for caving in to the Abu Sayyaf's demands, did open a window to negotiations while putting military pressure on the terrorists. But this option was promptly slammed by the Abu Sayyaf with its terrible announcement about Sobero's alleged beheading.

In keeping its American hostages, the Abu Sayyaf probably thought it could get millions of dollars in ransom. But the Americans, unlike the Europeans or even Malaysians, have a tough policy against payment of ransom. Their thinking is that if you pay ransom, you encourage further hostage-taking because it pays handsomely. The truth is that the Philippine government has no money to put into the ransom kitty, the United States won't pay, and the people the Abu Sayyaf can extort money from are the families of the hostages.

The ruthlessness of the Abu Sayyaf has driven the Philippine government and the US government to some form of cooperation that would improve the capacity of the military to end the hostage crisis and crush the outlaws, no matter the objections of some civil society groups who fear US "intervention" and subordination of national independence.

The military must improve its capacity to fight the bandits, but it should be understood that it has a tremendous handicap in fighting outlaws who use innocent hostages as human shields. We don't believe the military and police are wanting in skills to fight the bandits, but a more focused operation using advanced technology can bring better results.

There's no use recalling Moro raids on Christian settlements in the Hispanic period to make us understand why the Muslim extremists are seizing hostages. If those raids were launched to avenge grievances, real or imaginary, the raids this time are driven by nothing more than greed for money. But the Abu Sayyaf is discovering that this source is drying up, and so the attempt to escalate the horror.

On the other hand, the government should know by now that it is pointless to reason with irrational and bloodthirsty criminals. The only option it can exercise at this point is to crush them.

How can you privatize the SSS?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES celebrated its Independence Day and the Supreme Court celebrated its 100th anniversary one after the other this week. I don't see what there is to celebrate.

More than 100 years after the declaration of independence, we are still not free. We are still not independent of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. They dictate to our President and Congress what to do. They even told them to betray their constituents by passing the power reform bill in exchange for loans.

We are dependent on foreign loans and foreign investors. We like to buy foreign-made goods and watch foreign movies. We court foreigners to come to our country. We speak a foreign tongue. When foreign currencies appreciate in value, our whole economy depreciates. We are so dependent on others. So what independence are we celebrating?

In the 100 years of existence of the Supreme Court, the administration of justice has become progressively slower. In spite of progress in technology, the wheels of justice grind thousands of times slower now than they did when the Supreme Court was younger. Do you know that there are litigants who die of old age and disease before their cases are decided by the courts? Fifteen years after the Marcoses were chased out of the country after stealing the country blind, their cases are still sleeping in the courts and they are still unpunished.

It is at least a month, sometimes two, between trial hearings. Detention prisoners have already served the maximum term they would have been sentenced to, if convicted, before their cases are terminated. If they are acquitted, they have already lost many years of their lives behind bars for crimes they did not commit.

It is the Supreme Court that supervises and oversees the trial courts. It cannot help but see the snail's pace of the adjudication of cases in the trial courts. It has issued rules to try to hasten them, but more trial judges violate than obey them. And they go unpunished.

But the Supreme Court itself is the most guilty of tardy decision-making. It takes years for a justice to even pick up a dusty file to read it. Law students are taught by their elders that "if you can't win a case, delay it. If you want to delay a case, appeal it to the Supreme Court."

In his speech during the anniversary celebration, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. talked of "high-tech computers and beautiful buildings for the courts." But beautiful buildings do not an efficient court make, and computers can't run lazy and incompetent (and sometimes corrupt) judges.

The Supreme Court is 100 years old. Old age means wisdom, but it also means physical infirmities and slowness of movements. What is there to celebrate in the tribunal's 100th anniversary?

* * *

Fresh from the success of moves to privatize the National Power Corp., the government is now planning to privatize the Social Security System and, after that, the Government Service Insurance System. No doubt, many businessmen, foreigner and Filipino, have their greedy eyes on the SSS and GSIS. They are the ones egging the Macapagal administration to sell them. Because the two pension firms are rich and will make good cash cows.

As in the privatized water and power firms, the new owners don't have to do anything to make money. Like the utility firms, they start making money on the very first day they take over. The utility firms just take over collecting payments from their subscribers, and the premiums will continue to flow into the hands of the new owners of the SSS and the GSIS.

But the question is: How can you privatize a firm that is already privately owned? The SSS and the GSIS are owned by their hundreds of thousands of members, not by the government. The latter only runs it for the members. All the billions of pesos in assets of the two firms are contributed by the members. The only financial contribution of the government in the SSS, for example, is a P100,000 loan to start it up. That has been fully paid, with interest, a long time ago.

So what is there for the government to sell? It cannot sell something that does not belong to it.

Perhaps it is going to sell the right to run the SSS. But why? Private businessmen have only one goal: profit. So what is going to happen is that administrative expenses will go up and benefits for members will go down.

It has been argued that once it is in private hands, the SSS cannot be ordered by the administration to invest its money in the companies of friends of Malacañang as it has been doing now. And that income and profits may increase because of more efficient management.

But these can already be done by merely stipulating in the SSS charter where it can and cannot invest its money. And with losses from risky investments eliminated—such as those in Belle Resources—profits will rise.

On the other hand, greed is a very strong vice of private businessmen. And the danger of them milking the SSS members of their money is very real. It is as easy as milking bank depositors of their deposits by greedy bank officials, owners and directors. How many times has this happened in the banking industry? Until now, the depositors of Urban Bank still have not recovered their deposits which were squandered by the bank's officials.

But greed is also a very strong vice of the government. It is thinking of the billions of pesos it would get from selling the SSS. And if it promises to share them with members of Congress, it won't be hard to make them pass a law authorizing the sale.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Wrestling with Satan

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THIS June, the anniversary of D-Day on the 6th, the commemoration of our Independence Day on the 12th and the kidnapping atrocities committed by the Abu Sayyaf in the first two weeks of the month are a repeated reminder that the cost of liberty is always high and, often, it is the young who pay its price.

Those of us ensconsed reading this newspaper in middle-class comfort may find it perplexing that distilled evil like the Abu Sayyaf still exists in the 21st century. Hasn't civilization finally triumphed over barbarism? Why haven't the Internet, cell phones, the jetplane, HBO and Beethoven yet soothed the savage breast?

The Vizconde massacre, the Calauan rape-murders, the everyday robberies in the streets or tortures in the police station teach us that even in our backyards we are always only one ceaseless battle ahead of our demons. Even farther afield, there are Rwanda, Cambodia, Yugoslavia. Timothy McVeigh was executed in Indiana this week for the carnage in Oklahoma. The beast is never far away, for it is in us. To cease battling it is to yield to it.

During World War II, the American 29th Division, which fought its way from France to Hitler's living room in Berlin taught us that even "good" wars are not without cost. Such divisions had high casualty rates and were constantly provided replacements. "We are," they said, "three divisions: one in the grave, one in the hospital, one at the front." It is a good rebuke to armchair strategists and critics who believe that once orders are given in Manila, they will be seamlessly implemented in the field. The fight against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists will neither be quick nor painless. Many lives will be lost before this evil is stamped out.

Honoring the valor of our troops in the field is not the same as saying there have been no inadequacies of command. There have been shortages of will, intelligence, judgment as well as supply. But let us also remember Napoleon's aphorism that one always has enough troops when a general knows how to use them and when generals do not sleep in the towns but instead bivouac with their troops.

What infuriates us is the perversion manifest in the Abu Sayyaf's motives. They kidnap, maim and murder children in the name of Islam. They rape and behead captives in the supposed cause of freedom. Not only their crimes repel. More so does their claim to commit them in some justifiable higher cause, as Hitler, Stalin or Pol Pot also did. Satan comes in no better finery.

There is one price that is too high to pay. And that is to surrender to terrorism. Heartless as it may seem, even the safety of the hostages cannot justify the payment of a single peso of ransom for that places all of us at greater risk. That we have this crisis again is due to our past fecklessness in paying ransom, money that has been spent by the terrorists in acquiring superior weapons and in training.

What do our European friends now have to say? It was their strategy of diplomacy and ransom in the Sipadan incident that has left us this poisonous fruit. This is what Europe's $10 million laundered through Libya bought: the death of our children.

No money should therefore be paid, either openly or secretly. This policy, practiced over the decades by states like Israel and America, has in the long run discouraged kidnappings for ransom and saved countless lives. Let us profit from their example and from our own mistakes. If we do not, the cycle of kidnappings, murders and ransom will be repeated with resonating effect on our economy and polity. This is not the time for the government to go wobbly.

If ever the situation in Basilan called for the declaration of emergency rule, this must be it. The government must do what it said, allowing mediators only in the capacity of the Red Cross or Red Crescent in wartime, that is to ensure the health and well-being of prisoners and hostages and, if possible, their safe but unconditional release. If that is what the Malaysian mediators will do, good. But their past role in arranging for ransom payments to the Abu Sayyaf is not cause for comfort. This bears watching.

The great difficulty here for the government lies between resolution and brutality, between being too squeamish and too ruthless. Strong, even tough measures need to be taken, not excluding preventive arrests and detentions of terrorist sympathizers. These measures must neither be indiscriminate nor casual. We must not become what our enemy is. We must neither be too weak nor descend to barbarism. Speak softly but carry a .45. Easy doctrines to espouse in Manila. Almost impossible to effect in the field. But let us try.

What the government has to soon have are a few victories, to raise public morale and spirits and to destroy the myth of invincibility, or even invisibility, that the Abu Sayyaf has created for itself. If Sipadan and Palawan were our equivalent of the first and second waves of attack on Pearl Harbor, we need a Doolittle raid on Tokyo or even a Midway to even the score and foreshadow the surrender at Tokyo Bay.

Yet if the government, media and public are looking for quick, cost-free, surgical and happy endings, this isn't going to be it. You could already count the body bags, if we had them. Sadly, the only way to defeat evil is sometimes for good people to die.

Mahathir wants to teach MILF governance

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

KUALA LUMPUR—After Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad addressed the 700 delegates to the 6th Asia Oil and Gas Conference at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here Tuesday noon, he was asked by reporters whether Malaysia would consider a request from the Philippine government to allow two Malaysians from Sabah to help negotiate the release of the foreign and Filipino hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf. Mahathir said he would consider it, and if it's not too much of a problem, the government would agree.

The problem is that there is a new twist. Where before the two proposed negotiators, former Sen. Sairin Karno and businessman Yusuf Hamdan, who is married to a Filipina, seemed eager to get into the act, now, with the beheading of one of the three American hostages, the two fear for their own safety. They realize they could be taken hostage as well, and perhaps get their own heads chopped off, too. It's possible that even the Malaysian government would stop them from getting involved.

* * *

My husband, who came here to represent the Philippine National Oil Co. sat at the same table as Mahathir during the conference luncheon. He recalled to the Malaysian leader that seven years ago he, as Southern Command chief, played military host to Mahathir in Mindanao when he exited there after a state visit to Manila. During lunch they briefly spoke about the problems in Mindanao, including the sellout by Malaysians of their business interests there.

Mahathir then referred to the peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to be hosted by Kuala Lumpur next month after it opens in Tripoli, Libya, in a few days. Mahathir said he has stressed to the MILF that independence was out of the question for the Manila government which appears willing to grant them some autonomy in the future. "That's why I am willing to bring the MILF here. I want to show them what peace is like and what progress it can bring. I'm willing to offer them training in governance," said Mahathir.

* * *

As this column has pointed out earlier, Mahathir appears eager to take the lead in stabilizing the Southeast Asian region, a role once reserved for Indonesia, which, however, is now perhaps the most turbulent nation in the region. Seizing the lead role is also a good way for Mahathir to crown his 20 years in power, as well as to help take some of the heat from controversies that are quietly but steadily hounding his long rule.

A long article in yesterday's Herald Tribune by Thomas Fuller puts in perspective that 20-year rule with all the pluses and minuses. Among the minuses are Mahathir's tough autocratic ways which are manifested in his tight control over the media and the police, his ruthless way with his political opponents, the involvement of his family in many businesses, which has led to accusations of nepotism, and his "cronies." The West is not enamored of Mahathir as he has been highly critical of its alleged exploitation of Asians. The other day, at the Central Market, I asked a man selling Malaysian silk how jailed opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was doing. He immediately changed the topic. Anwar, once a frequent Manila visitor, is looking at a possible jail term of 14 years.

* * *

There are theories that as more opposition to Mahathir surfaces, he would either resign or crack down harder. Last June 1, the second most powerful man in the country, Daim Zainuddin, resigned as finance minister, and though Mahathir says it was a "friendly parting," there are speculations that Daim was protesting certain allegations of graft and corruption in government. Mahathir is concurrent finance chief and says Daim's replacement has to be "non-controversial, knows about finance and is 'clean'." The job is tough, considering Malaysia's controlled currency and, as critics allege, its propensity to window-dress economic and business figures. When Mahathir first imposed tight control over the ringgit at the height of the Asian financial crisis, he defied the World Bank and the IMF which predicted doomsday for Malaysia. Now, with the ringgit stabilizing due to such control, the doomsday-sayers are quiet.

Last Tuesday, Mahathir's son, Mokhzani Mahathir, resigned as treasurer of the youth wing of the governing United Malays National Organization, amid allegations that he benefited from his father's long rule. Mokhzani also resigned as chief of two high-profile companies, a move which is being interpreted, as Fuller put it, as "cashing out before his father leaves the scene."

* * *

Mahathir is also being criticized for his extravagance in building impact projects that have earned him the sobriquet of "Southeast Asia's Great Builder." Cited among his projects are "Petra Jaya," the budding new city which is his unfinished dream 45 kilometers from KL; the also unfinished state-of-the-art information technology capital called Cyber Jaya; the modern KL international airport; and the world's tallest building, the twin-tower Petronas building. I had occasion to go with my husband for dinner in this building, sponsored by the state oil company, which was followed by a concert by the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (composed 98 percent of European musicians, as they are still training native talents). I must say that the 88-story stainless steel and chrome Petronas building is truly magnificent and is the landmark of modern KL. Its wood-paneled classical concert hall, designed by an American firm, features a ceiling vault with an Asian motif (it looks like a gigantic *salakot*). The acoustics of the concert hall is considered one of the world's best.

* * *

Fuller's article speaks of the ambivalent attitude of the middle-class Malaysians toward their long-ruling leader. I can see that. While they feel bad about his autocratic ways and his sharp tongue, they can see that he has given them a good life and more money in their pockets now than ever before. After the 1968 racial riots that left about 70 Chinese dead, the leaders sought to close the yawning gap between the Chinese minority which controls the economy and the natives, the Bumiputras, mainly through education of the latter. Today that gap remains wide, but the Bumis have come a long way and there's work for whoever wants to work.

Mahathir has also made Kuala Lumpur clean and enviably wooded so that one can walk in many sections at high noon. We toured the 16-acre Lake Garden in the heart of KL, a wooded giant park which features such things as a big orchidarium, aviary, butterfly park, planetarium, a museum for Islamic arts and hiking trails. In addition, there are many other mini-parks in the city, a welcome respite from the concrete jungle.

Ghosts and questions

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THEY'RE called "The Greatest Generation" in America, the generation of men and women who lived, fought, died and survived World War II. There's even a nostalgia boomlet in the United States these days, doubtless fueled by the release of the film "Pearl Harbor," as well as the ongoing fund-raising efforts for the planned World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In fact, the US media, so quick to sniff out even the merest whiff of public reaction, have begun questioning if the adulation and self-congratulation showered on the World War II vets have not gone overboard.

On the occasion of Memorial Day in the United States last month, traditionally the day Americans pay homage to their war dead, bookstores prominently displayed a number of newly released books dealing with the war and with memories of its survivors. Among these is "Ghost Soldiers," which purports to be "the forgotten epic story of World War II's most dramatic mission." More specifically, author Hampton Sides has written a remarkably detailed and deeply felt account of the "fall" of Bataan, the horrors of the Death March and the horrific conditions of the Japanese concentration camps, as well as the little-known rescue of the Bataan survivors from the main POW camp in Cabanatuan.

* * *

AS far as my sister Chona and I were concerned, however, "Ghost Soldiers" was worth its $24.95 hardcover edition price only for the tantalizing possibility that two uncles could be mentioned in its pages. Nick and Titong Jimenez both fought in the trenches of Bataan and survived the Death March, but Tio Titong did not survive the war. Tito Nick, on the other hand, spent his last years fighting for greater recognition and rights for the Filipinos who fought alongside the GIs in the USAFFE, only to find their efforts and sacrifices belittled and even repudiated.

"Read it and tell me if you find their names in there," Chona said as she handed me the book. I ended up reading "Ghost Soldiers" in one go, in the course of a 10-hour train ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. I didn't find either of my uncles mentioned in the book, but I wasn't in the least disappointed. Sides' retelling of the early days of the war, and the dramatic rescue mission toward its end, should put the Filipino participation and contribution to the Allied victory in the Pacific in its proper perspective. Though I must say the lack of Filipino "voices" in the book is a marked weakness of this otherwise compelling, excellent and fair account.

* * *

AMERICANS call World War II the "good" war largely because they (and their allies) won it. But early on, America's cause seemed lost. If Pearl Harbor was a harsh wake-up call, though, the surrender of Bataan was deemed a shameful blot on the American roster of victory.

The survivors of Bataan, writes Sides, "felt as though they were branded by a certain shame when they returned to American shores—shame for having surrendered in the first place (even though they were ordered to do so), shame for having survived when so many of their friends didn't, shame for having to be walking exhibits of American defeat..."

"All the syndromes and illnesses that have come to be associated with Vietnam veterans were suffered 25 years earlier by the American captives of the Japanese," adds Sides. "While their patriotism is beyond question, many of the Bataan veterans have been unable to shake their belief that their country abandoned and forgot them...To this day, Bataan veterans continue to feel a sense of bitterness."

Imagine, then the sense of abandonment and bitterness of the Filipino survivors of Bataan, who were deemed unworthy of enjoying the same benefits as the Americans with whom they fought side by side. In their waning years, they have been reduced to killing time in social halls while America takes its sweet time deciding if they're worthy of citizenship and benefits.

* * *

ONLY two Filipino names are mentioned prominently in "Ghost Soldiers," and they are those of two guerrilla commanders who lent their forces to the top-secret Ranger mission to Cabanatuan: Eduardo Joson and Juan Pajota.

Filipinos, however, are everywhere in the story. Sides' account makes clear that Filipinos bore the brunt of the Japanese assault and punishment. Though estimates vary widely, it is believed that 750 Americans and 5,000 Filipinos died in the course of the Death March from Mariveles, Bataan, to Capas, Tarlac. Even more would die in the stench, congestion and disease of Camp O'Donnel, with one of every 10 prisoners who passed through its gates dying there. Still, the proportion was horribly skewed toward Filipinos, with the number of deaths estimated at 1,500 American and 15,000 Filipino.

At one point, Sides asks a pertinent question: Why should Filipinos (in the persons of the guerrillas) care about the fate of some 500 American POWs in Cabanatuan "when their country was going up in flames"? Arriving at the last barrio before the POW camp, Lt. Col. Henry Mucci, who headed the "top-secret" Ranger mission, was flabbergasted to discover schoolgirls welcoming them with leis and softly singing "God Bless America" and the entire barrio preparing a royal feast for them.

The success of the Cabanatuan raid and rescue was deeply meaningful for the Bataan survivors, a grand if foolhardy gesture that showed them America remembered and cared for them. But why did Filipinos seem to invest as much meaning and value to their rescue, enough, as Sides put it, "to sacrifice their lives for them"? That's something to ponder, two days after our celebration of Independence Day.

Yamot is in the heart

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(TOMORROW is the 10th anniversary of Mount Pinatubo's "world-class" eruption that darkened a great portion of Planet Earth and cut a wide swath of destruction in our lives.

My Aeta friends called from Zambales last week requesting me to come to tomorrow's commemoration at the Phivolcs where they will be honored. Yes, I will come and I will bring with me a handful of the first ashfall that I had scooped.

To honor my Aeta friends, I am reprinting today my very first column piece. It came out on Friday, June 21, 1991, the week after the volcano erupted. The subject was their village, which has a special place in the landscape of my heart.

Indeed, Yamot is risen and continues to live "somewhere.")

YAMOT is gone. Buried deep under a sea of volcanic ash.

Nine years ago (in 1982)—it was in the month of June, I remember—I stayed in an Aeta community in Sitio Yamot in Poonbato, which is in the town of Botolan, province of Zambales. It was a memorable stay. I didn't take a bath for three days because there was no water for bathing. The nearest spring was a hill away. And although the "dark, curly haired, barefoot little people" regularly went down the ridge and up the craggy hill to fetch water, I couldn't go with them to their source. I didn't have climbing shoes.

I stayed with the Franciscan missionaries who were then just about a year there. The nuns lived in a grass shack which was clean and orderly inside. We ate with our hands and slept on the floor. We laughed a lot. I sang vespers with them. I knew them long enough to consider them great friends.

There was water to drink as every three days the nuns would go to the parish convent which was an hour of very rough drive in order to take a bath and load water on a decrepit World War II weapons carrier.

I stayed long enough to be able to write a magazine feature about how the nuns and the Aetas lived together. I discovered how scheming, fair-skinned middlemen bought the Aetas' bananas at rock-bottom prices. I learned how hurt they were when a government worker said at a meeting, "*Sa Bagong Lipunan wala nang bahag-bahag! Kahiya-hiya!*" after which an Aeta stood up to answer: "*Bakit ikahihiya ang bahag? Kahit ako nakabahag hindi naman ako lumalabag ng batas.*"

The nuns did not come to Yamot to Christianize. They taught the Aetas how to care for their bodies and keep disease away. They taught them how to count and read and write and reason out and not to be cheated. They didn't start with A, B, C. They started with the letter L, for *lota* or land. D for *damowag* or carabao. How much is one banana? How much should they sell 100 bananas?

I left Yamot with a bottle of wild honey and a wild orchid an Aeta took down from a tall tree. (I still have the orchid hanging in my garden but it never bloomed. An orchid grower told me a mountain orchid will have a hard time in Manila. I also still have the bow and arrows they sent me later.) I took a lot of photographs, beautiful ones, I would say, and one of them was that of Emily, the little ebony girl who was about 5 or 6 years old. I remember her following me around with her big eyes and her big *uhog*.

I went back to Yamot two years later and I didn't recognize what I saw. The place was throbbing with life. The huts were abloom with orchids. The surroundings were very clean and the nuns' grass shack had expanded to accommodate meetings. And a water pipe had been installed! That second time, I was there to snoop on and write about the American Marines who had camped out there for their "war games." An Aeta guided me through the bushes and to the camp sites.

I haven't gone back to Yamot since then. But I did meet Aetas from there last year when the press was invited to a conference of tribal leaders at the foot of Mount Hibok-hibok, the volcano on Camiguin Island in Mindanao. The nuns from Yamot were there with the Aeta delegates. Sr. Carmen Balazo was beaming when she introduced her G-stringed friends. "Remember them? They were little boys when you went to Yamot." Ero, Palawig, Ernie and Rudy. Paylot, now a community leader, could not come, Sister Carmen said, adding that Paylot attended a conference of indigenous peoples in Australia. I could only gasp.

But where is ebony girl Emily? I asked. "She's now a teenager." Sister Carmen laughed. "You must visit us again there." I said I would in the summer.

Three months ago, I received a photograph of Emily standing in front of the community center the Aetas had built. Beside Emily was the logo of Lakas (Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubong Ayta ng Sambales). The Aetas of Yamot have come a long way.

A month or so ago, Mount Pinatubo woke up from its 600-year sleep. Yamot which is within the five-kilometer radius of the volcano was among the first to be evacuated. Several times I saw the Aetas and the nuns being interviewed on TV. They looked sad. Last week the volcano finally spat out its bile and Yamot was buried never to be seen again.

While I was writing this, I received a call from a nun who had just come from Zambales. Today, Friday, relief goods will be brought to the Aetas of Yamot (300 families) who are now in Sta. Cruz. Could I come? I said yes I will come, as I had promised. I hope to find Emily.

When will they go back to Yamot? I hastened to ask. From the looks of it, she said, there is no going back.

Yamot will forever be in the heart.

(In 1992 the Aetas came out with a book about their experiences of the eruption and about their life before that in the bosom of the volcano where dwells Apu Malyari, the gentle god who reveals herself in the fire and thunder and in the wasteland that is coming back to life.)

Dark days

YOUNGBLOOD

Carlo Antonio C. Cordero

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I STORMED out of the room, sweat forming beads on my forehead. I tried not to throw another tantrum. To some people, it must have looked funny that I was all worked up just because of a drawing. But for a 5-year-old, which I was then, it was very frustrating. So, after my very first unsuccessful attempt at painting, I resigned myself to the fact that I simply wasn't born an artist.

For the next nine years, I just ignored whatever it was in me that told me otherwise. But when I finally tried again, it felt like I had opened a rusty faucet that suddenly gushed water.

I hurriedly left, cold sweat forming beads up on my forehead. I tried to avoid contact with any of my friends or acquaintances. I did not need their pity. I hurried to escape the humid, ill-lit surroundings of the campus and seek refuge in a McDonald's outlet nearby.

I remembered them vividly, those dark days of my life. Those were the times when I had completely resigned myself to failure and created a fantasy world in my head that was college. In college, I thought everything would be fine, or at least better than the way things were. So I forced myself to attend classes for the sole purpose of reaching college.

It wasn't long before my parents took notice of my disinterest in my studies and my undesirable attitude toward school.

I laid it all down on the table. I was burnt out. I was tired of dealing with all the emotional and physical stress. I had gotten tired of working for something I felt I could never attain. The logical solution to my dilemma seemed clear: instead of dealing with the issues and the pressures around me, I just ignored them. Besides, I told them, I would graduate anyway.

With the wisdom of the years behind them, my parents told me that it was more than an academic matter. It was a matter of how I dealt with problems in general.

Of course, they were right. I realized that the way by which I tried to shut off my problems was not healthy at all. I realized that even in college, I would still encounter problems that I would have to overcome. And if I were to follow this faulty philosophy, I would be going nowhere.

This past summer, while I enjoyed the grace period, I thought very deeply. I arrived at the conclusion that if I were to make good in college, I should grow sharper horns to fight the enemy instead of thicker eyelids to deny its presence.

Horrible mantra

A hopeful Filipino enters the consul's office and prepares to talk in his carabao English. With cold sweat forming beads on his forehead, he avoids the stare of the American. The cool, air-conditioned room seems almost like an outpost of paradise in the middle of the squalor and heat of Manila.

We can taste it in our water. We can smell it in the air. We can hear it in the news. We can see it in the streets. These are dark days for our country. These are times when most of us have resigned ourselves to the seemingly endless deterioration of our motherland and have created a fantasy world called the United States of America.

"*Pangit sa* Pinas, *maganda sa* States." This horrible mantra of our people resonates in our cultural deformities and aesthetic confusion. Even the educated and the sophisticated are not spared. Even those who have proven that the Filipino and the Philippines are worth dying for, those who have defied the likes of Ferdinand Marcos and detested the likes of Joseph Estrada, and those who have made Edsa succumb to this disease. Even the man who told me to deal with my problems instead of escaping them, repeat these lines like a broken record:

"*Kaya kayo, mag-*States *na lang. Wala nang pag-asa ang* Pilipinas. *Buti pa sa* States."

"*Bakit sa* States *ang ayos ng trapik? Dito...ewan ko ba!*"

"*Tingnan mo 'yan, saan ka ba nakakita ng ganyan? Onli in da Pilipins.*"

"*Kaya mag-*migrate *na lang kayo.*"

At my age when all I seek is fun, I have noticed this unsettling attitude. I would not even attempt to sit down with my dad or with any other person who shares his sentiments to discuss this. I know that the answer is all around us: the selfish politicians, the crazy traffic and almost everything else that's *sira* in this country.

Call to arms

I do not claim wisdom beyond my years, but I would like to emphasize the obvious. While my own personal problems are dwarfed many times over by the gigantic problems facing our country, they are in essence the same and they differ only in terms of magnitude. Compared to me who is capable of dealing with my problems, a country of more than 70 million people has the Herculean task of dealing with so many problems.

The problems before the nation are no different from my first frustrating attempt at drawing. Just as it took me some time to finally learn how to draw, shade and color, it will take us—all of us—a very long time to grow as a nation and achieve the progress we have been constantly wishing for—in our government and in the economy and in our culture.

I can only pray that those who read this do not dismiss this call to arms as another cliché or another silly dream and continue to sit idly by, grumbling and complaining, while the country's butt gets kicked; or worse, leave the country to rot while they breathe in the fresh scent of some Western country. The only thing more rotten than the Filipino who keeps whining that maggots are feasting on his native land and yet does nothing about it is the Filipino who denies his identity and ignores his obligations to his nation.

I can only hope that the Filipino grows better hands and feet to do the job instead of a better tongue to berate himself and his countrymen with.

Even amid a social tumult like the so-called Edsa III, we must not lose hope in the Filipino, for he has withstood greater challenges and can withstand a thousand more. The point is, it can be done and we can do it.

No matter how many thousands of dollars you earn and no matter how good life gets, nothing will silence the wailing of the motherland which you refuse to repay. But I, for one, will not resist its call.

Carlo Antonio C. Cordero, 16, is a BA Philosophy freshman at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Prerequisites for development

"Peaceful conditions and a Mindanaoan demand-driven program are prerequisites for Mindanao's long lasting development."
—Jemal-Ud-Din Kassum of the World Bank

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Headless

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FEMALE TV reporter once told me how it felt to interview Nur Misuari. Misuari was in Manila at the time, and the reporter was assigned to cover him. She interviewed him in his residence one morning, and found the experience discomfiting. Misuari was with a couple of male aides in the sala, and he met them indifferently. He answered the reporter's questions well enough, but he would not look at her. Each time he spoke, he addressed himself to one of the male crew who was working the camera. This went on till the end of the interview. The reporter could hear voices of women, but they were all hidden from view. Someone would tell her later the women were at the kitchen preparing a meal. They were not allowed in the sala.

I remembered this when I read that the Abu Sayyaf beheaded one of their American hostages, Guillermo Sobero, as a gift to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Independence Day. I don't know what meanings the Abu Sayyaf wanted to attach to it, but I wouldn't put it past them to suggest by it the scorn they have for the incumbent President, a scorn that comes from her being a woman. Misuari was the head of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao when the female reporter interviewed him, and was called upon to show better diplomatic skills—and he couldn't. Abu Sabaya, the presumed author of the beheading, is merely the head of a terrorist group—though one that has proven to be the most successful kidnap gang in the country—and is not expected to show any signs of civility. He won't.

Symbols do play a great deal in war, physical or psychological—though there is clearly nothing symbolic for Sobero's family in their husband's or father's headless body. The Spanish kings during the Middle Ages used to fly flags that depicted pigs to show their contempt for their Moorish conquerors, who of course abhorred pigs, as they do even now. I don't know that by beheading one of their victims—an American, no less—Abu Sabaya is not sending the message that he considers the current Philippine government to be headless. I don't know that the Abu Sayyaf is not sending the message that they consider the current head of government, such as she can be called that, to be without balls.

It is not farfetched. This is a campaign that curiously keeps resonating with the image or idea of heads. The ploy seems calculated to drive government officials out of their heads—quite apart from enemies out of their minds with fear; a common occurrence in the south, the vigilantes and fanatical cults also beheading their enemies, particularly during the late 1980s and 1990s, as documented by the human rights groups—and make them do something rash. It is the sort of thing that makes the blood boil and makes people do macho things. I am sure the media will be full of tough talk in the days to come.

Which is precisely what Ms Macapagal cannot afford to do. She would do well to keep her head on this one, and solve this problem in the best—no, in the only way—it should be solved: the woman's way.

None of this is to say that she shouldn't throw the government's full might at the Abu Sayyaf. The group has become a cancer that should be excised posthaste. But all this is to say that she should use all the flexibility that she can to deal with the problem. The war against the Abu Sayyaf won't be won by machismo, it will be won by cunning. It won't be won by brawn, it will be won by brains. It won't be won by balls, it will be won by heads. If this were a war that could be won by machismo, muscle or testosterone, Erap would have won it a long time ago. But armed with those very things, he not only did not destroy the Abu Sayyaf, he made it stronger.

Ramon Montano, former head of the PC-INP, may not be the human rights community's favorite person but he has a point when he says the government should use more brains than balls in the current campaign. Specifically, he has a point when he says the government should rethink the wisdom of fighting the Abu Sayyaf with tanks and mortars. But wonder of wonders, you would think that by now the AFP would have learned something from Victor Corpuz's book on how to fight an extremely mobile group that is using the tactics of hit and run on jungle terrain. Of course, the Abu Sayyaf will always escape a dragnet thrown by a slow-moving government force.

But there is need for the President in particular to keep her head in a bigger respect, which is to avoid the temptation, thrown by the arguably monumental provocation that is the beheading of Sobero, of escalating the war to include the Muslim population while pursuing the Abu Sayyaf. If the Abu Sayyaf cannot be contained militarily by heavy equipment that gets mired in mountain roads, it cannot be contained politically by enlarging the enemy to include the Muslim communities in the south. That is where Montano's own suggestion that government accept Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar's offer to lend his own men, which is another term for private army, or use civilians, which too is another term for vigilantes and bounty hunters, to fight the Abu Sayyaf is not using the head. That is not going to contain the Abu Sayyaf, that is going to allow it to melt away into the secret recesses of those communities, like fish in water.

The image of the headless Sobero may inflame all of us, but so does the image of the two Muslim men who were killed at a checkpoint after being mistaken for Abu Sayyaf members. The sobs of their mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters are going to be heard deep in the heart of the Muslim south, like the murmur of voices from a mosque. Not all the reward money in the world is going to drive them to turn over the Abu Sayyaf when the soldiers make them wonder who their true enemies are. We have more of those killings—and knee-jerk macho responses to the killing of Sobero will guarantee that—and the Abu Sayyaf will be around for a long time.

Ms Macapagal tried the tough talk once, probably eager to show that she could take on the Abu Sayyaf *mano-a-mano*, or like a man. She should try another tack, the one the Americans have used for a long time, and with much success, in dealing with its enemies. That is to talk softly and carry a big stick. That does not necessarily conjure the image of a man, the big stick notwithstanding.

The other tack is just heedless of the lessons of the past. It is also, well, headless.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

The first time

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE FIRST time Efren heard about sex, it was from his parents. He meant that literally: "*Narinig ko sila* (I heard them)." Eventually, he had to learn about sex—facts and myths all bundled together—from friends in school.

Efren was one of several young participants at a four-day consultation on adolescent reproductive health organized by the Foundation for Adolescent Development, with support from the Packard Foundation. The consultation was special because it used a technique called Future Search. There were no "expert" speakers dishing out statistics or advice. Instead, the more than 70 participants from different sectors were considered experts in their own right. It was important that the participants included the young, who spoke out without fear, without adult scripts, about their concerns.

Last Sunday's Lifestyle section already featured a detailed account about the workshop, written up by another participant and INQUIRER staff member, Cathy Babao-Guballa, so I'll concentrate instead on one important issue in adolescent reproductive health: sex education.

We are a society perpetually anxious about premarital sex. In particular, parents are obsessed about preventing that "first time," although this is done with a double standard, mainly hoping that daughters will remain virgins until they get married. To do this, parents avoid talking about sex with both their sons and daughters. At the FAD workshop, the young complained how their parents would brush off their questions with a stern rebuke, "I hope you're not thinking about doing it."

It's a dangerous attitude. Adults need to face up to the reality that once a girl menstruates, and a boy has his wet dreams, a pregnancy can occur. Adults also need to face up to another important fact: the young are maturing earlier, at least physically. One of my work colleagues came to me last week mourning that his little "baby" was now a *dalaga*—at 11, she just had her first menstruation. In our grandmothers' time, the average age of first menstruation was about 14.

At the FAD workshop, a panel of youth was asked where they got their first information about sex. Nearly all of them answered "friends" and "classmates." Yet when they were asked who they would have preferred getting this first information from, they were almost unanimous in answering "the family."

I agree, totally, on the part about sex education starting at home but would argue that it needs to be continued outside of the home as well. We're talking here about reproductive and sexual health, which can be quite broad. Adults are so fearful about explaining sex because they think of it mainly as "doing it." But that's really the easiest part to explain. The young have many more questions about sexuality: sexual attraction, relationships, roles of men and women, parenting and family planning. There are also technical issues, from those pesky pimples to sexually transmitted diseases, and the very sensitive issues such as domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Are parents ready to answer all these questions? I doubt it, especially because so many of our parents were themselves products of a culture of imposed silence. Moreover, even if parents do have the answers to these questions, they may not always be able to provide the answers in the most appropriate way. An elder sibling or cousin—Kuya or Ate—is an important educator as well since he or she can speak in a language the young understand, and can cite his or her own experiences. Sometimes, too, a certain distance is needed to discuss issues that may be considered too sensitive so the young might want to approach a cousin, an uncle or aunt, even a grandparent.

Sex education is a continuing process, and this is why schools are important, providing a more interactive venue where different views and, again, experiences, can be shared. The teacher's role is not to "teach" but to facilitate those discussions. I thought about this while we went through the Future Search methodology, which encourages people to think of their personal lives as it relates to national and international events, and to link the past to the present and the future. It's this same principle that we need for sex education.

Unfortunately, teachers and guidance counselors are often as reluctant as parents when it comes to talking about sex. One of the young participants at the workshop said that a high school teacher had assigned her class to compile scrapbooks about family planning methods but never got around to explaining those methods. The result? The participant giggled, "*Nagbuntisan tuloy*"—an "outbreak" of pregnancies. Other young participants complained about how sex education in schools is conducted in English, rather than a local language, and that the presentations were too technical and boring.

Dr. Carolina Guerrero, director of the government's Bureau of Secondary Education, says they have produced many materials that can be used for reproductive and sexual health but funds are often too limited for dissemination. One example she cited were modules to prevent child sexual abuse, but they were able to print only 2,000 sets, hardly enough to provide each of the country's high schools with one copy.

We pay dearly for this lack of education on sexual and reproductive health. The first day of the consultation, I sat beside a young girl who had become pregnant at the age of 15, and had to drop out of high school. "First time *ko, at isang beses lang kami*," she sighed. No one, at home or in school, had explained to her that all it takes is one time, and this can be that first time. She eventually married the boy and now, barely 20, she has three children. Her husband is jobless.

I listened, shocked and wondering if anyone was providing family planning advice for this teenage couple, but that is another issue in a country where people still insist the young get pregnant from talking about sex.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

Escape from the Abu Sayyaf

MY abduction by the Abu Sayyaf apparently did not end when I was rescued last June 2. There have been persistent statements and media reports alleging that I paid ransom for my release. To say the least, having to read about these unfair charges make it more difficult for me and my family to go back to our normal lives again.

We vehemently deny that there was any ransom paid for my freedom. It was an act of God, coupled with my will to survive.

That I was able to break away from my captors unscathed seem incredible to some people. I attribute my miraculous rescue to the power of prayers made by so many who stormed the heavens with their pleas for my safety and the other hostages' Modesty aside, those who know me very well will also attest to my determination to attain anything that I set my mind on.

I was able to break loose from my captors when we were at the Lamitan hospital. I took advantage of the confusion when the military subjected the area to heavy firing at around 8 in the morning of Saturday. I saw one of the patients' pajamas lying around so I took off my clothes and wore it. I hid under the bed near the patients who were huddled together in the room.

After an hour, I came out from where I was hiding and saw that the Abu Sayyaf bandits with the other hostages in tow were frantically looking for a way out. I knew it was the right time, so I quietly caught the attention of the other hostages nearby, including the boy, and we ran toward the door. We ran as fast as we could until we reached the area where the military was positioned.

Since I was barefoot and wearing only the borrowed pajamas, the military men thought I was a patient from the hospital and instructed me to proceed to where the patients who were able to flee were brought. It was at this point that we identified ourselves as among those abducted in Palawan.

The ordeal we went through has yet to be recounted in full. I believe that there will be an appropriate time for that.

In the meantime, there are some who prefer to claim to know what really happened when they were not there at all. Worse, they insist on their malicious view that ransom was paid and we were freed. Ironically, only someone who has been there and was able to come out alive can truthfully claim that miracles happen.- **–REGHIS M. ROMERO II**

Where will Manila college be built?

I READ the letters to the editor last June 8, and I would like to comment on "Save Manila's historical and cultural heritage" by Fr. Roberto P. Reyes.

Like Father Reyes, I was also born in Manila and lived part of my childhood days in Sta. Ana (still part of Manila). Though I did not grow up in the city, I have been a small part of Manila's life and I understand the importance of her historical landmarks.

I was just struck with Father Reyes' words when he sought to stop the construction of the City College of Manila and have it built elsewhere. My question is, where is that elsewhere?

I believe that the Mehan Garden has lost its old fame and glory. It would be more useful and convenient, especially for students, if the CCM is relocated to a safer place, which the Mehan Garden is. Because the building set for the college's relocation is structurally unsound, the Mehan Garden area will well suit the purpose and be a boon to students.

Currently, I am studying at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, a sister school of the CCM. I asked someone from the CCM and she told me that the building is really in a bad state. Sometimes the elevators don't work, so they have to use the stairs. The rooms are dark, and it feels like the building will collapse in a moderately strong earthquake.

The Mehan Garden as the new site for the CCM would be a better use for one of the city's venerable landmarks than what it has become.

Let those who oppose it at least name an alternative site for the CCM, which is an equally urgent need.—**GISELLE ZAYDA E. ENRIQUEZ, 305 Onella Compound, Umali Street, Poblacion, Muntinlupa City**

Coco farmers left to fend for themselves

APPREHENSIONS were raised before the elections when the Nationalist Peoples' Coalition (NPC) of Danding Cojuangco dropped its support for Joseph Estrada and offered an alliance with the administration party. Undoubtedly, political compromises were on the agenda. This led to Lakas supporting a number of NPC candidates like Mark Cojuangco, Danding's son, who is now a congressman-elect from Pangasinan.

With the election fever over, what is left for politicians is to target top positions and influential committees in the Senate and House of Representatives. The ruling party (Lakas) and the major opposition (NPC) are now into wheeling and dealing on how benefits can be shared in Congress. Sadly, apart from filling the top posts and influential congressional committees, positions on national issues are also subject to the same wheeling and dealing. Such is the case with the coco levy controversy. The small coconut farmers should be alarmed over these developments.

Former Speaker (9th and 10th Congress) Jose de Venecia is again eyeing the speakership. We know that De Venecia junked the bills related to the coco levy during his term so as not to rock the rainbow coalition of Lakas and the NPC that supported his speakership.

The First Couple is not spared from this ridiculous political juggling act. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has reportedly made political deals with Danding Cojuangco. And while a number of government officials threaten to recover the coconut levy funds from Cojuangco et al., the President applies a disturbing "soft touch" on the issue. Apart from saying she had already suspended Estrada's EOs 312 and 313 which virtually made the coco levy funds private in nature, she has made no decisive stand on the issue. Maximum tolerance seems to be the order of the day for the Estrada appointees to the coco levy funded UCPB and SMC-CIIF shares, who adamantly refuse to give up while Cojuangco and his lawyers tie up the issue of board appointments in legal court processes.

Until there arises a leader with a strong political will to do justice, the small coconut farmers can only expect to recover the coco levy funds primarily through their own efforts.—**JOEY FAUSTINO, executive director, Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc., 84 Masikap Ext., Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City**

Audit CHED for education congress

JOCELYN Sagun's article, "CHED turning into a mess" last May 30, prompted me to recall the recent Higher Education Congress.

We paid P3,000 each. For that amount, I got my seminar kit and a thick souvenir program full of private schools' advertisements and a delayed lunch.

It was well President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did not grace that assembly with her presence. She would have seen the mess that was the Commission on Higher Education!

The Commission on Audit should check the income generated from advertisements and fees. Chair Ester Garcia, Roger Perez of the commission's confidential staff, and AFS director Teresita Baterina are obviously treating those contributions with some proprietary interest, as they did in the past. But these are public funds. The Ombudsman should also look into possible violations of the anti-graft or ethical standards law, since private schools go to the CHED for permits.—**CELESTE ARGONES, Sampaloc, Manila**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

NCC needs a technocrat, not a diplomat

WHILE a writer's opinion like that of Neal Cruz should be respected, the writer must verify the facts he's using before writing so he will not mislead the readers.

Readers do not know why he devoted two columns to push for Ike Señeres' retention as head of the National Computer Center. We don't know if Cruz is related to Señeres or if they are good friends.

Cruz also wrote that the new science secretary was a former school teacher appointed during the Macapagal administration. If he did his homework, he would have found out that Estrella Alabastro was not just a former school teacher but a seconded University of the Philippines professor who worked as the executive director of the Engineering and Science Education Project (ESEP) and undersecretary for research and development of the Department of Science and Technology.

Cruz's contention that Alabastro violated the law when she appointed Delfin Sabido as NCC's director should be left to the courts. But Alabastro, who has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the Rice University, may only want to appoint a technocrat like herself to head a technology-oriented agency like the NCC.

We need technocrats to lead our science and technology agencies and not some political appointees who may not even be able to distinguish a CPU from a monitor. Señeres doesn't belong to the NCC and he should go back to the foreign service.

Cruz, I think, should go back to journalism school and learn the basics of truthful journalism and, most importantly, ethics.—**RANDOLPH FLAUTA, Mukaijima Gakusei Center, 104-1 Takaba-cho, Mukaijima, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto 612-8133**

A suite for Erap in Sandiganbayan building

AS Sandiganbayan Justice Narciso Nario put it, the law is clear: during their arraignment, the accused—Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy—must personally be present at the Sandiganbayan, and nowhere else, not even the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

If a suite can be provided for Estrada at the VMMC, why not provide the same at the Sandiganbayan? Travel from the VMMC or from anywhere else is going to be very risky and bothersome both for the accused and the Sandiganbayan. Putting Estrada in a suite at the Sandiganbayan will be less risky and less bothersome as well as more economical. The government doesn't have to spend for two sets of security personnel—only one, in the vicinity of the Sandiganbayan.

As for Jinggoy, since he is no ex-president, he can be detained at any of the jails within Metro Manila. Remember, as Scripture states, all are equal and must be treated fairly well.—**LOLITA C. JOSON, Nahalinan, Lower Jasaan, 9003 Misamis Oriental**

The WORLD

WITH a portrait of late Nepalese King Birendra's family members, mourners stage a peace march in the streets of Katmandu on Wednesday. Government investigators probing the June 1 massacre of the royal family have issued a notice seeking to interrogate Crown Prince Dipendra's girlfriend. AP

Nepal probers to question crown prince's girlfriend

KATMANDU—Government appointed investigators probing the massacre of Nepal's royal family have issued a notice seeking to interrogate Crown Prince Dipendra's girlfriend, an official said yesterday.

Many in Nepal believe that his parents' opposition to Dipendra's plans to marry his girlfriend of many years, Devyani Rana, apparently drove the prince to go on a shooting spree June 1, killing nine royal family members, including parents King Birendra and Queen Aiswarya, before shooting himself.

The two-man probe committee, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Keshav Prasad Upadhaya and with House Speaker Taranath Ranabhat as a member, sent a letter to Rana's father—Pashupati Shumshere Rana who is a parliament member—asking him to present Devyani for questioning.

The investigators were questioning all the people whose numbers appeared on the cellular phone used by Dipendra. Ten people whom the prince had called and the last 10 people to have telephoned him, were being questioned, said the official associated with the investigation, on condition of anonymity. Rana's was one of the numbers listed, he said.

Rana, however, is not in the country.

Rana, in her 20s, was reportedly so overcome with grief after the slayings that she left for New Delhi. She has since flown to London where she is reported to be staying with her sister. Her father could not be reached for comments.

King Birendra and Queen Aiswarya objected to the marriage because Rana belonged to what they considered a lower clan. Rana's mother belonged to the once-powerful Scindia dynasty in India's central state of Madhya Pradesh.

Though there have been eyewitness accounts claiming Dipendra was the lone gunman who wiped out the royal family, there has been no official confirmation whether his thwarted marriage plans were the reason that drove the 29-year-old crown prince to gun down his family.

Wahid foes laugh at Cabinet shuffle

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid's latest Cabinet reshuffle drew scorn from his political rivals yesterday, including laughter from his vice president and most likely successor, news reports said.

Wahid appointed new ministers to his economics team on Tuesday in a bid to rebuild his support ahead of impeachment proceedings and to smooth relations with disgruntled foreign lenders. It was the second major change to his troubled Cabinet in 11 days.

The person widely expected to succeed Wahid, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, reportedly chuckled at the changes.

"Ms Megawati just laughed when we asked for her comment on the latest Cabinet reshuffle," Soetjipto, the secretary general of her party, was quoted as saying by The Jakarta Post newspaper.

He said Megawati had not been consulted about the changes.

Wahid needs Megawati's backing to survive impeachment. She has spurned his repeated offers to give her most of his executive powers in exchange for a guarantee that lawmakers will drop their impeachment drive.

A senior lawmaker in Megawati's party, Jacob Tobing, said the changes would do little to help Wahid survive impeachment proceedings in August for alleged corruption and incompetence.

"This reshuffle means nothing. There is no point to it. His presidency is finished," he said.

Under the changes, Burhanuddin Abdullah, a deputy governor of the central bank and former Indonesian representative to the International Monetary Fund, replaced Rizal Ramli as senior economics minister.

Rizal, a longtime critic of the IMF, was demoted to the post of finance minister and replaced incumbent Prijadi Praptosuhardjo, who was dropped from the Cabinet.

A new state apparatus minister, Anwar Suprijadi, who will be in charge of much of the government's administrative functions, was also appointed. *AP*

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The undersigned business associations urge members of the National Internal Revenue Service to unite under the leadership of **Commissioner RENE G. BAÑEZ** and together pursue needed changes in the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

A precondition to our economic recovery is a drastic reduction of our fiscal deficit. Unless we are willing to curtail essential public services and capital expenditures, which are not possible, Government revenues must significantly increase. This can be accomplished only through a more effective and efficient tax collection.

The reorganization of the Bureau is aimed at accomplishing this all-important goal. As explained by Commissioner Bañez himself in a Memorandum dated 5 June 2001, "the reassignment [of revenue officers] is meant to fulfill the time-honored management principle of getting the right person in the right job at the right place and time."

As businessmen, we not only understand but certainly endorse such a rationale for the reassignment of key revenue officers. And, thus we call on those affected and all other revenue officers and staff to heed the call for unity and public service beyond self for the common welfare.

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MAMORU Takuma is led into a police car from Ikeda Police station in Ikeda, western Japan, on June 10. AP

Massacre sparks debate on mental health in Japan

TOKYO—It's any society's nightmare: A man with a history of schizophrenia and an arrest record is released from a mental hospital—then explodes in a bloody rampage.

That nightmare became reality in Japan last week, when a former psychiatric patient and crime suspect burst into an elite elementary school and slashed eight children to death.

In the aftermath of the stabbings and a string of other crimes by psychologically troubled attackers, Japan is in the thick of a thorny debate: is the system too lenient with mentally ill criminals?

"Looking at a crime like this, something has to be done," said Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who is pushing for consideration of toughening the penal code.

Mamoru Takuma, the suspect in last week's stabbings, was apparently one of those who fell through the cracks in the Japanese mental health system.

Takuma, 37, was accused in 1999 of slipping tranquilizers into the tea of four teachers at the school where he worked as a janitor. Diagnosed as a schizophrenic, he was never charged and was sent to a mental hospital, and later he was released.

Since the school attack, TV reports and newspapers have been filled with lurid accounts of Takuma's other brushes with the law, including allegations he battered and threatened to kill his ex-wife.

Japan's mental health debate, which has come up periodically over the years, so far has focused on whether to screen psychiatric patients for criminal tendencies, allow them to be punished under the law or make it more difficult to win release from mental hospitals.

Proposals of reform have run into opposition from some—including members of Koizumi's own Cabinet—who worry that changing the laws could lead to discrimination against the mentally ill, who already face a heavy stigma in Japanese society.

"This is an issue we must consider seriously," Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama said earlier this week, urging caution. "We must consider specific ways to effectively carry out our current laws."

Under the current system, Japanese courts are remarkably hands off when it comes to defendants with psychological problems.

The penal code prohibits punishment of the mentally ill, no matter what the crime, murder included. And once offenders are committed to a mental hospital, they can be released anytime without court approval.

Of the 3,629 people suspected of mental illness who were arrested or apprehended from 1995 to 1999, 89.3 percent of them—or 3,240—were never charged. The 10.4 percent who were eventually convicted received reduced penalties, according to the justice ministry.

That holds up even for the 726 mentally ill suspected of murder: 83.7 percent were never indicted. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Truce plan OKd

JERUSALEM—Both Israel and the Palestinians have accepted a plan to call a truce, the US Embassy said Wednesday, raising the prospect of an end to nearly nine months of fighting that has taken almost 600 lives. After a late-night meeting between CIA director George Tenet and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Palestinian officials said they accepted the plan in principle, but still had reservations about two of its elements. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had announced his acceptance of the plan a few hours earlier. The US Embassy released a statement saying that the plan had been accepted by both sides. "Its purpose is to resume security cooperation, end the violence and restore the situation on the ground that existed" before hostilities erupted in September, the statement said. *AP*

Surgery on Suharto

JAKARTA—Surgeons yesterday operated on Indonesia's former dictator Suharto and implanted a cardiac pacemaker, a doctor said. The 30-minute procedure was ordered a day after the former president, 80, was admitted to Jakarta's state-run Pertamina Hospital with dangerously low blood pressure and an irregular heart beat. "He is stable. The operation was a success. But there could always be complications," said Miftah Suryadipraja, a doctor at the hospital. "He will stay in the hospital for two or three more days for observation." *AP*

New labor laws

JAKARTA—Thousands of workers threw rocks outside the presidential palace in the capital and others burned cars in another city in protest against new labor laws. Police fired warning shots to disperse about 3,000 protesters on the outskirts of the second largest city, Surabaya. In a separate protest there, another 3,000 workers threw rocks at police. Four demonstrators were arrested. One person was hospitalized with stomach wounds, medical officials said. Police blocked roads to prevent more protesters entering Surabaya, a bustling port and industrial center. *AP*

S. Korea unrest

SEOUL—Several thousand nurses and other workers yesterday walked off their jobs at eight hospitals, joining a nationwide strike by South Korea's two airlines and its chemical and metal industries. The government called the strikes illegal and promised stern legal action. State prosecutors, armed with court warrants, said they would arrest 14 Korean Air union leaders. When the widespread job actions by the airlines and the metal and chemical industries began Tuesday, thousands of strikers held large protests in Seoul and 13 other cities. But as hospital workers joined the action yesterday, the rallies were much smaller, mostly confined to the grounds of the medical facilities. *AP*

Landslide kills 36

QUITO, Ecuador—An avalanche of rock and mud slammed down on a group of stranded motorists in the Andes east of the capital Tuesday, killing at least 36 people, authorities said. Torrential rains set off the deadly landslide that swept over the victims as they huddled around a campfire in an abandoned shack, trying to get warm after their vehicles were blocked by an earlier avalanche. The tragedy occurred around dawn Tuesday about 48 km east of Quito, several hundred meters from the buses, trucks and cars that the motorists had left to seek shelter and warmth, Red Cross spokesperson Cristian Rivera said. *AP*

S'pore tanker sinks

BOMBAY—Three people were killed and two others were missing after a Singaporean oil tanker sank off India's west coast in the Arabian Sea following an explosion on board, a coast guard official said yesterday. The 3,500-ton M.T. Hen Sen was empty and on its way from Singapore to the United Arab Emirates when it sank Tuesday night 740 km off the coast of New Mangalore in the Indian state of Karnataka, the official said. Thirty-seven crew members had been rescued by three foreign merchant Navy vessels which were diverted to the area, he said. *AFP*

Colombia senator seized

BOGOTA—Marxist guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have kidnapped a Colombian senator in an area near the border with Ecuador, lawmakers said Tuesday. Sen. Luis Eladio Perez of the opposition Liberal Party, was seized Sunday in the southwestern province of Narino along with a number of other people—who later were freed, Sen. Javier Caceres said. Another senator, Fabio Granada, blamed the kidnapping on the Marxist rebel group, known as FARC, which is currently engaged in a peace process with the government of President Andres Pastrana. *AFP*

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Bin Laden bomber spared death penalty

NEW YORK—A New York jury, swayed by lawyers' arguments that a death sentence would merely create a martyr to inspire other anti-US militants, instead sentenced Mohamed Rashid Daoud al-Owhali to life imprisonment Tuesday for blowing up the US Embassy in Nairobi in 1998.

Prosecutors had demanded the death penalty for Owhali, convicted of murder and conspiracy on May 30 in a trial of four men linked to the twin embassy blasts in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam that killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

Thousands more were injured in the Aug. 7 blasts that the US authorities have linked to Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network of militants—to which all four men belonged.

But 10 of the 12 jurors, in their fourth day of deliberation and swayed by defense arguments, found that "executing (Owhali) would make him a martyr for the al-Qaeda cause."

The jury's decision read to the court said that jurors also found mitigating circumstances in Owhali's favor, and nine of the 12 found that "executing (Owhali) may not alleviate the victims' suffering."

Five jurors considered that life in prison was a worse punishment than death, four that lethal injection was "very humane and the defendant may not suffer."

Owhali, 23, confessed to playing a direct role in the Nairobi bombing in which 213 people died, assisting the driver of the truck carrying the bomb to the Embassy, and then throwing stun grenades at embassy guards.

He showed no emotion as his sentence was read.

Prosecutors appeared stunned as the jury read out the sentence and some survivors of the blast and relatives of the victims were outraged.

"I must confess that we are extremely disappointed that the jury accepted some or all the patently false and dishonest arguments advanced by the defense to save the life of this convicted mass murderer," said Howard Kavaler, a US diplomat at the Nairobi Embassy who lost his wife in the blast.

Lawyers for Owhali apparently convinced the jury that the death penalty would create a martyr for the militant Islamic cause.

In his closing arguments last week, defense lawyer David Baugh asked the jury: "What kind of message are you going to send by becoming killers?"

He suggested that a death sentence for Owhali would be an act of revenge likely to inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

"We would make more people hate us with such a verdict. What is the difference between justice and revenge? Will we make another martyr?" *AFP*

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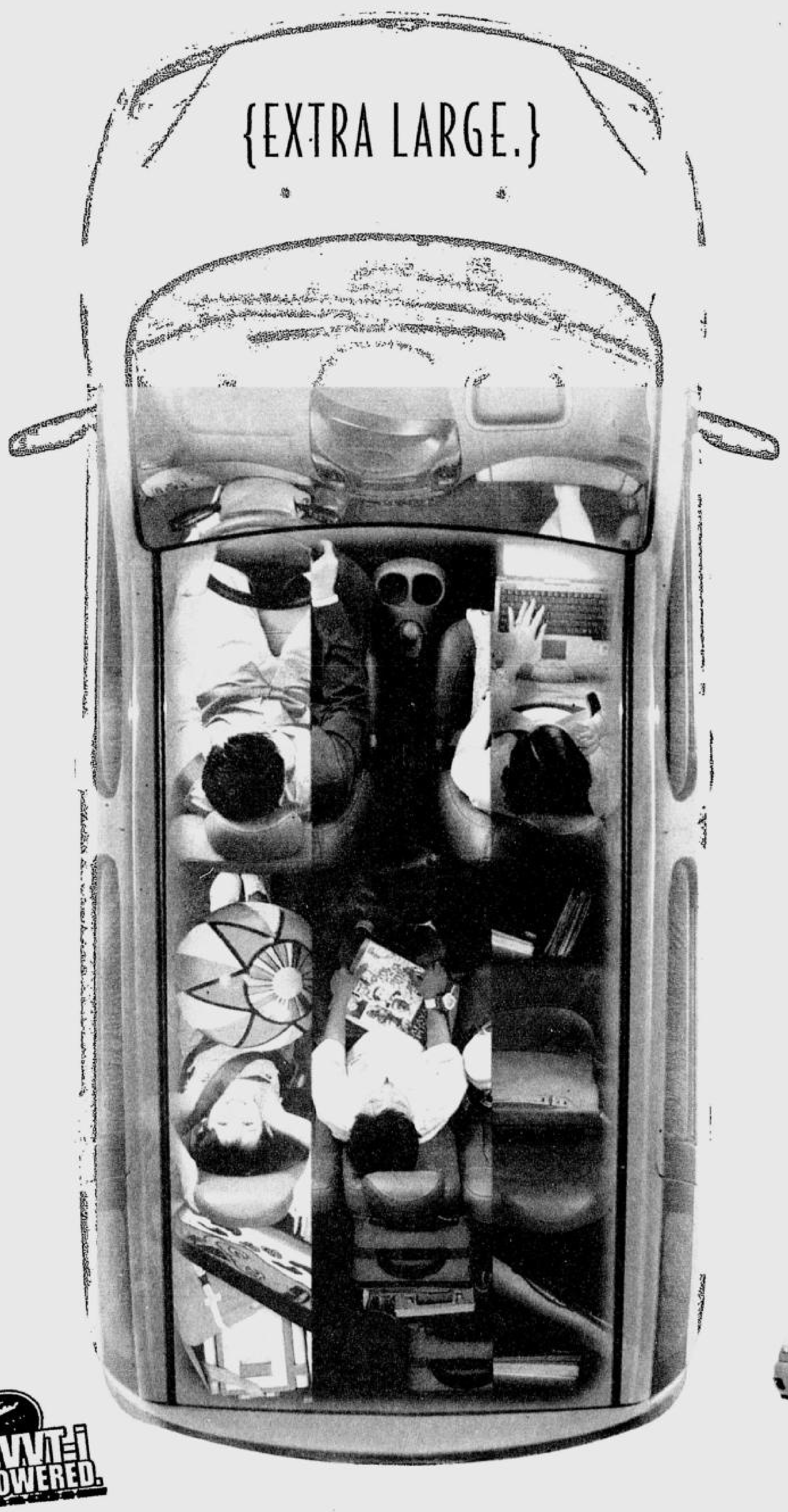

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Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Drug suspect nabbed

KALIBO, Aklan—Police nabbed the brother-in-law of an outgoing town mayor for alleged drug pushing. Ferdie Alcobendas was arrested June 7 after a raid on his house at Barangay Estancia here yielded two packs of white powder believed to be shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and drug paraphernalia. His wife Ruth is the sister of Ibajay Mayor Pedro Garcia, who won a provincial board seat in the May 14 elections. *Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau*

NPA rebels freed

TAGBILARAN CITY—Three suspected New People's Army members were freed from detention here and placed in the custody of Tagbilaran Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak on orders of Regional Trial Court Judge Tefilo Baluma. The court said Kim Michael Virador, Romeo Pialan and Romualdo Munez were freed in accordance with the government thrusts on reconciliation and peacebuilding. The three were among nine people arrested when government forces raided a rebel camp in Catigbian town in 1999. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Peacemakers'

TACLOBAN CITY—Supt. Teodorico Lapuz, Northern Samar police director, and Col. Rafael Romero, head of the Army's 803rd Infantry Division, were commended on June 2 by the University of Eastern Philippines for being "peacemakers" and for showing good leadership that prevented bloodshed in the last elections. The school said the two officers prevented a clash between supporters of the People Power Coalition and the Liberal Party-Puwersa ng Masa who massed at the capitol on May 20 during the resumption of canvassing of election returns. *Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

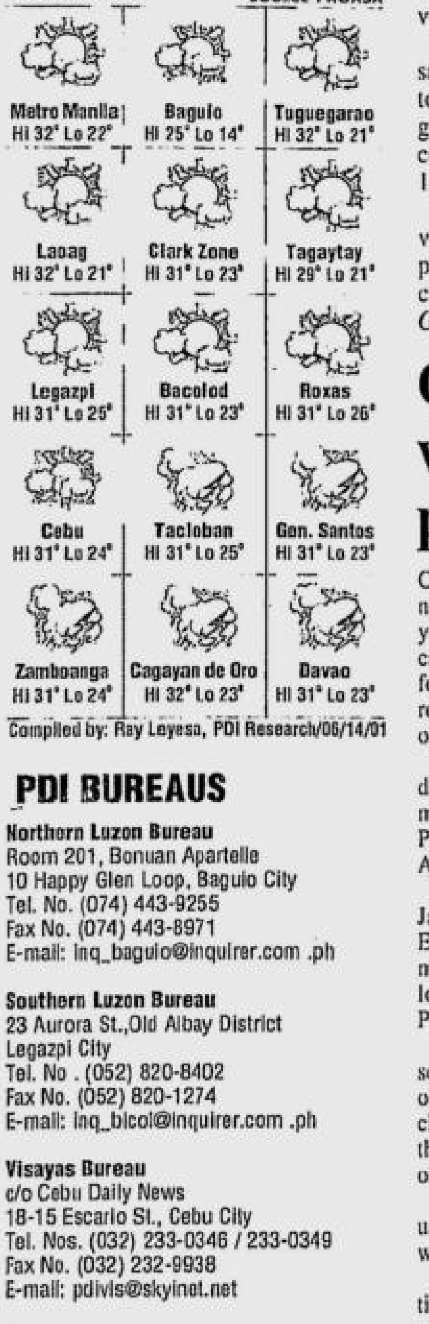
Multigrade teachers

AT LEAST 70 teachers and supervisors working in isolated areas have completed a five-day workshop to upgrade their multigrade teaching skills. The workshop is part of the Little Red Schoolhouse Project of the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, which builds schoolhouses for multigrade teaching in the rural areas. Experts from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, led by Dr. Teresita Inciong, facilitated the sessions at the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA



Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/14/01

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Rebels kill 4 soldiers, 2 cops

FOUR soldiers and two policemen were killed by suspected New People's Army rebels in two separate attacks in Mt. Province and Occidental Mindoro yesterday.

The NPA ambushed government troops near Lake Danum in Sagada, killing four soldiers and wounding another. Another soldier was reported missing.

In Paluan, Occidental Mindoro, two police officers died and another was seriously wounded when a landmine laid by NPA rebels exploded.

Maj. Elmer Quiros, commander of the Civil Relations Group for Ilocos and Cordillera, identified the Sagada fatalities as Sgt. Froilan Busto, Cpl. Cresencio Daus, Cpl. Rodolfo Baldeviso and Pvt. Rodel Garay.

Pvt. Ricky Chavez was wounded and rushed to the Anglican Church-run St. Teodores Hospital here, while Cpl. Edilberto Taguilan was reported missing.

The NPA rebels attacked soldiers of the 22nd Special Forces Company who were tasked to secure the area for a multisectoral group scheduled to plant trees to mark the 103rd Independence Day celebrations here.

Quiros said rebels of the NPA's Leonardo Pacsi Command, led by Simon Naugsan and Lupito Dawela, opened fire at the government troops at 7:30 a.m. and fled with their wounded companions to a nearby forest.

Naugsan, a former member of the Cordillera People's Alliance based in the province, ran against former Rep. Victor Dominguez in the late 1980s but joined the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA when he lost.

An engineer and native of Paracelis town, Naugsan used to work with the provincial Department of Public Works and Highways as an auditor when he got disillusioned with government bureaucracy and joined the CPA.

The Leonardo Pacsi Command earlier threatened to intensify its operations against the military in the province.

Chief Insp. Nicasio E. Pedraja. Occidental Mindoro police operations head, identified the fatalities as PO3 Edgardo Dangupon of Sablayan town and PO3 Edmundo Rimando of San Jose town.

Wounded was PO3 Leopoldo Anglo.

The victims belonged to the 408th Provincial Mobile Group based in the capital town of Mamburao.

Pedraja said the policemen were on their way to the Paluan town proper for a spot inspection when the rebels exploded a land mine.

He said the policemen led by Insp. Cecilio Ison, executive officer of the 408th PMG, engaged the rebels in a three-hour gunfight which forced the guerrillas to withdraw.

Pedraja said the NPA attack was staged on a flat terrain, where the policemen did not expect to be attacked.

The ambush came a month after the rebels killed a policeman and wounded two others in an ambush in Calintaan town on May 13.

In Davao Oriental, members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit allegedly "summarily executed" a 70-year-old NPA rebel who was wounded and captured in Caraga town.

The human rights group Karapatan claimed the Cafgu members tied the victim to the town hall's flagpole and killed him.

Karapatan's Clifford Manalo identified the rebel as Manuel Mantilao, who was hit in both legs in a clash with Army soldiers on June 2.

Manalo said the soldiers allegedly brought Mantilao to the town hall, tied him to the flagpole and let a five-member Cafgu firing squad kill him.

Manalo said several residents witnessed the execution.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, denied the accusation. *Alfred Dizon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Special polls give mayor win

BY VICENTE S. LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Samar board of canvassers on Tuesday proclaimed outgoing Calbayog City Mayor Reynaldo Uy as the new representative of the province's first congressional district.

Uy (LP) defeated Paz Tuazon (Lakas-NUCD), wife of the incumbent three-term Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon, by only 143 votes.

The final results in the special elections in the two hinterland villages in Samar on Monday failed to upset Uy's lead over Tuazon.

Uy was already leading Tuazon by 118 votes when the special polls were called in Barangay Jolacao, Sta. Margarita town and in Barangay Mabini I in Calbayog.

The elections in these areas did not push through on May 14 because of the refusal of members of the board of election inspectors to serve on Election Day due to the critical peace and order situation.

The special polls were considered crucial in determining the congressional winner for the first district because of Uy's slim 118-vote lead over Tuazon. Mabini has 116 registered voters while Jolacao has 55 registered voters.

The Commission on Elections tally showed that in Jolacao, Uy got 33 votes and Tuazon, 10. In Mabini I, Uy garnered 51 votes and Tuazon, 49.

The final results increased Uy's total votes to 51,004 from 50,920, while Tuazon garnered 50,861 votes.

Representative Tuazon earlier said they planned to file an electoral protest against Uy on the ground that his wife's opponent committed fraud during the May 14 elections.

He accused Uy of engaging in vote-buying, terrorism and transporting voters to the polling precincts. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

C. de Oro winners proclaimed

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Finally, the city's Board of Canvassers yesterday proclaimed the 15 winning candidates in the May 14 polls here following the lifting of a temporary restraining order by the Commission on Elections' first division.

The Comelec also dismissed the disqualification case filed by losing mayoral candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, son of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Proclaimed were Constantino Jaraula as representative, Vicente Emano as mayor, John Elizaga as vice mayor and 12 city councilors, all belonging to the Padayon Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa.

The elder Pimentel earlier presented at a news conference a 15-year old girl from Marawi City, who claimed that she was made to vote three times for Emano and candidates of the Padayon Pilipino-PnM.

But Emano said that if he were to use flying voters, "definitely, these would be people of right ages."

The younger Pimentel filed the petition for disqualification, seeking to suspend the proclamation of the 15 Padayon Pilipino-PnM candidates. *Grace Cantal-Albasin and Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RESCUE MISSION

EDWIN BACASMAS

American and Filipino soldiers mount a mock rescue operation in Subic Bay as part of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (Carat-01) program under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Pinatubo anniversary trek dampened by security threat

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—It gave the world the second largest eruption in the 20th century. It changed the world's climate and gave one of the most beautiful rainbows.

It set off drastic changes in Central Luzon's topography. It struck awe, left hard-learned lessons to volcanologists and naturalists. It sowed fear, caused dramatic transformations in the lives of more than one million people around it.

Mt. Pinatubo, the volcano that terrified, humbled and strained many people 10 years ago, is forlorn.

Unlike in past years, only five foreign trekkers are scaling Pinatubo on June 15, the day the volcano gave its largest blast.

"That's not a good sign," rued Michael Bennett, managing director of DreamTreks.Com, which offers adventure tours to Pinatubo.

The attack by New People's Army rebels on a group of American and Filipino servicemen on June 5 on the southern flanks of the mountain has hurt the business that has given Aetas around the volcano an alternative to farming, Bennett said.

Dream Treks lost 15 Pinatubo trips via Tarlac on Friday and Saturday, he said.

The United States Embassy, he said, had advised his clients "not to leave Manila because of the rebel problem in Central Luzon."

The NPA in Pampanga, in a statement issued last week, said it had no policy of harming Pinatubo tourists.

Although the communist guerrillas have not hurt the servicemen whom they mistook for tourists and snatched firearms from their Filipino Navy escorts, Bennett said the harm has been done.

The Department of Tourism in Central Luzon has advised tourists to "take special precaution" in Sapang Bato, the route in Pampanga taken by the servicemen.

Bennett and Ronaldo Tiotuico, tourism regional director, maintained that the "safest and easiest" route to the volcano is the Sta. Juliana path in Capas; Tarlac.

The Philippine Air Force maintains three checkpoints in the area.

Tiotuico said tourism in the Sta. Juliana route was not affected by the June 5 incident. It was the same for the Botolan route in Zambales.

But Bennett expressed the hope that everything would go back to normal soon.

"There are still questions of security," he added.

The tourism department has not promoted anniversary treks to Pinatubo on June 15, citing the risks of lahar flows this rainy season.

But mountaineers from the University of the Philippines appeared unfazed, he said.

They are hiking on June 15 to wander in the gray-now-turning-green landscape, as well as catch a glimpse of the 3-km wide crater-lake that Pinatubo left in the aftermath of its 1991 eruptions.

Poll officer freed; another abducted

COTABATO CITY—An election officer of Tiboli, South Cotabato, was released on Tuesday by his abductors a day after he was seized in nearby Polomolok town.

But another election official was reportedly abducted by gunmen after he refused to sign an election document.

Andamon Samod, secretary of the municipal board of canvassers of Kabuntalan, Magundanao, was last seen in the company of unidentified men here.

Two mayoral aspirants, reelectionist Salipungan Dagloc and Bai Susan Samad, have claimed victory in the town's election. Showing separate certificates of proclamation, the two said they would assume office on June 30.

Police in South Cotabato said election official Anthony Sia was forcibly taken by masked men in Polomolok and brought to Malapatan, Saranggani, where he was asked to explain the election results.

Sia's wife said he was blindfolded and brought to another town on a motorcycle. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AFP helps Clark boy with heart ailment

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Kelvin Sarmiento, although frightened, boarded Philippine Air Force helicopter on Wednesday.

It was to be the start of the 12-year-old boy's journey to have a new lease on life, care of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The chopper will take Kelvin to the AFP' V. Luna Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where doctors will do a surgery to correct his cyanotic congenital heart disease.

The doctors will have to close a small hole in his heart, according to Dr. Jonas del Rosario of the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center's pediatric and cardiology section.

The ailment—which Kelvin's mother suspected to have something to do with exposure to toxic waste from Clark—has not allowed the boy to play, to regularly attend school or walk long miles like boys his age do.

His mother Emily said Kelvin and three other children, all born 1989 in Sapang Bato, share the same ailment. The village is located at the southern periphery of Clark and where wastes from the former military base were dumped.

Kelvin grasps for air even after short walks, his mother said.

"He has led an abnormal life since birth. He has always been rushed to the hospital, dependent on oxygen and medicines," Emily, a teacher in a public school, said.

Until AFP chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, agreed on June 1 to sponsor the operation, Emily and her husband Amador were planning to sell their jeepney to raise the P380,000 needed for Kelvin's surgery.

Selling away the jeepney, which takes passengers to and from Sapang Bato in Angeles City where the Sarmiento family lives, would affect the family's source of livelihood, Kelvin insisted.

"We will not be able to eat if we sell the jeep," he had told his father.

During the Holy Week in April, the entire family held a fast to seek help for Kelvin.

On May 9, medical missions in Sapang Bato held under the Visiting Forces Agreement paved the way for the meeting of Kelvin and Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid, deputy chief of staff for AFP civil-military operations.

Alcasid, according to Emily, spotted Kelvin while he slumped at Sapang Bato's rugged Little Baguio hill. Other kids played noisily. By then, Kelvin appeared bluish and was gasping for breath.

Alcasid learned of Kelvin's plight in this manner, Emily said.

Kelvin said he had told Alcasid he needed help. Play and go to school, which are important to children, are what Kelvin wants.

"I envy other kids," he told the INQUIRER.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, Air Force public information officer here, said Alcasid lost no time asking Villanueva if the boy could be assisted.

Never meeting the boy but told of his predicament, Villanueva agreed.

"We are overwhelmed by the help," Emily said.

Earlier, she did not entertain any hope. "The AFP was in the middle of this Abu Sayyaf thing. I thought they would not have time for this concern," she said.

NPA: Aguinaldo deserved to die

(From page A1)

of the Communist Party of the Philippines, affirmed the NPA statement, saying Aguinaldo was killed because of his "blood debts."

"The National Democratic Front (NDF) has declared as just punishment what the NPA in Cagayan Valley did. It's because of his blood debts," Sison told the INQUIRER by phone in Oslo, Norway, where the government and the communist-led NDF panels are holding peace negotiations.

"Aguinaldo is a notorious human rights violator and, at the same time, he has many political enemies," said Sison, consultant to the NDF panel headed by Luis Jalandoni.

Jalandoni declined to be interviewed.

Sison said Aguinaldo's killing was justified because of his "record as a human rights violator who tortured and salvaged" people in the 1970s. According to accounts, the military officer played a major role in the capture of Sison in the mid-1970s.

Aguinaldo and his aide, SPO1 Joey Garro, were headed for the congressman's rented apartment on Magallanes Street, about 200 meters away from the police station in Tuguegarao, when they were attacked.

A stray bullet hit and wounded a shopping mall cashier, identified as Amelia Soriano, in the left arm.

The assassins

The gunmen were described as between 20 and 30 years old and natives of Quezon, Isabela. They were reportedly not fluent in Ilocano, the major language in Cagayan.

They had been occupying a rented room in one of the boarding houses at 13-B Magallanes St., which is owned by Esmenia Gonzales of Tuao, Cagayan.

Gonzales said the gunmen went to her on May 22, requested that they be allowed to spend the night, and later reserved a room. On Monday, June 11, they returned and rented the room.

A female witness told police that the armed men's appearance fit the description of the three boarders who hastily left after the killing of Aguinaldo and Garro.

Noli Paredes, a beautician on nearby Gonzaga Street, said he met the armed men while they were walking on Magallanes and Gonzaga Streets, minutes after the ambush.

The female witness and Paredes said Evangelista wore a white shirt, Bulusan a maroon shirt and the third suspect, a certain Jun, short pants and carried a cellular phone.

After the attack, the suspects reportedly fled toward the Tuguegarao public market, about two blocks from the ambush scene.

Aguinaldo reportedly winked and even smiled at the suspects as he saw them sitting in front of their boarding house, near the congressman's apartment.

Aguinaldo died from five bullet wounds in the head, nape and body, while Garro had four bullet wounds, according to Dr. Cleofas Antonio of the National Bureau of Investigation.

"*Nalib-at isuna ta nakalikud* (He was caught flatfooted because the suspects were at his back)," a witness said.

Police recovered three empty shells of .45 cal. pistol from the crime scene on Tuesday night.

Motive

Despite the identification of the suspects, investigators could not establish the motive for the attack.

Sources in Cagayan said they doubted reports that Aguinaldo was killed because of politics as he had announced his plan to retire from politics when he lost his reelection bid to former Rep. Manuel Mamba in last month's elections.

Aguinaldo was elected governor of Cagayan in 1987, served three terms and was later elected congressman of the province's third district in 1998.

The sources said Aguinaldo announced that after politics, he would spend his time farming and writing his autobiography.

They said he was preparing to move his family to a new house in his farm at Sitio Lingaling in Barangay Libag, Tuguegarao.

Other sources also doubted reports linking the killing to the NPA, as Aguinaldo was known in the province to be close with communist rebels.

However, Aguinaldo was also noted for ordering military operations against the NPA in rebel strongholds of Gonzaga and Gattaran towns.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Philippine Army's Northern Luzon command based in Tarlac, said Army intelligence operatives were backing up Task Force Agui.

Speaking to the INQUIRER by phone from the Nolcom base in Camp Aquino, Tarlac, Garcia clarified that the Aguinaldo case was "strictly a police matter."

Nevertheless, Garcia said the Army and the police were "mobilizing everything to track down and pin down his perpetrators."

NPA charges

"His death is long past the appropriate time," said Victor Servidores, spokesperson of the NPA's Fortunato Camus Command. "The people have long clamored for revolutionary justice."

In its statement, the NPA said Aguinaldo's "crimes" included the summary executions of suspected rebel leaders and activists, torture and other physical abuses, rapes of wives and women-relatives of suspected rebels, forcible evacuations of thousands of people suspected rebel sanctuaries, and mass arrests.

Sison held Aguinaldo responsible for the killing of his staff members—Nenita Evangelista and her young child, Johann Baroso and his driver Eugenio Flores—in the early 1970s.

Aguinaldo, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1972, had been identified as one of the alleged torturers of Satur Ocampo, former spokesperson of the NDF and now a party-list congressman, and former beauty queen-turned-activist Nelia Sancho.

As Constabulary provincial commander and later governor of Cagayan, Aguinaldo implemented "Oplan North Star," the local version of the military's nationwide "Oplan Katatagan" counterinsurgency program, according to the NPA.

"He was one of the pillars of the 'low intensity conflict' designed by the US Central Intelligence Agency to suppress the revolutionary movement," it said.

Aguinaldo was also accused of being a major shareholder of a logging company which operates in Cagayan Valley and of involvement in illegal drug trade and human smuggling, as well as massive poll fraud.

New rules?

One of his alleged torture victims, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, yesterday condemned the killing of the lawmaker, saying it "changed the rules of the game."

"I denounce any move to silence those (who hold differing views). The violence inflicted changes on the rules of the game," Rosales said. "Justice must be met."

Rosales said the killing reminded her of the recent assassination of Rep. Marcial Punzalan, allegedly by NPA rebels.

She said it shouldn't have been done as Punzalan was a "non-combatant" who was being accused not of political crimes but of involvement in illegal drugs, a "common crime" case which was later dismissed. ***With reports from Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Martin P. Marfil***

Loi speaks Erap's . . .

(From page A1)

the poor.

In her first public address since being proclaimed senator, Ejercito criticized the Macapagal administration for sacrificing medical care "to give way to programs that benefit the rich."

She vowed to "restore the caring hands of government to our people, instead of a government that does not listen to its people."

She described the country's present state of affairs as "disturbing" because it is run by a government "alienated to the poor."

She also scored the administration for being too eager to pass the Power Reform Bill at the expense of a sound economic program.

Ejercito, who garnered the second most number of votes in the senatorial elections in the city, was the guest of honor during the 103rd Independence Day celebration here Tuesday.

No respectable policy

Ejercito claimed that the health program has been "continuously weakened" because funds have been channeled to "so-called priorities" of the present administration.

"We do not know for now whether we are pursuing any sound economic program," Ejercito said.

She said she does not see "any respectable policy" being implemented concerning job generation and productivity, social welfare, health, housing, "or even protecting our agricultural base to realize food security."

"*At nauna pa yung power bill*," she quipped. (The power bill was prioritized.)

The former first lady declared she would continue what her husband, former President Estrada, started in Mindanao.

She quoted Estrada as urging his winning party-mates to prioritize Mindanao and to continue pursuing his program to make the region the country's food basket.

"Huwag ninyong pabayaan ang Mindanao, lalo na sa programa ng pagkain at peace and order," Ejercito quoted the deposed President. It was during his presidency when Mindanao received the highest government financial allocation ever, she claimed.

PnM:12-1

She said Estrada was sad at not being able to visit the city, where his candidates in the Pwersa ng Masa coalition garnered 12 of the 13 senatorial seats during the recent elections.

She said Independence Day is a time for the Macapagal administration to "reflect" and formulate "a truly comprehensive social and economic program of reform and development" for the country.

She, however, expressed sympathy for the government's efforts to resolve the hostage crisis. She said she hopes the crisis "will be resolved satisfactorily and that the hostages will be released unharmed."

With the theme "Unity and Peace," the independence rites held near the City Hall followed a parade around the city's main thoroughfare.

"Unity and peace... will remain lasting aspirations for us for as long as we do not address forcefully and decisively the widespread poverty and habitual neglect persisting in our country," Ejercito said in her speech.

He wanted his death to be swift

(From page A1)

governor of Cagayan from 1988 to 1998 before he was elected representative of the province's third congressional district in 1998.

In his reelection bid, he lost to former Rep. Manuel Mamba in a bitterly fought electoral contest last month.

Aguinaldo's killing shocked his relatives and provincemates.

"It is painful for us. I doubt if Cagayan can produce another Aguinaldo who is considered a hero in the province," Purita Licas, chair of the Cagayan Media Association, told the INQUIRER.

Vice Gov. Oscar Pagulayan described Aguinaldo as "a good governor, an achiever."

Aside from infrastructure development he funded under his Countrywide Development Fund, Aguinaldo's major contribution to Cagayan was the enactment of the Tuguegarao cityhood bill. Tuguegarao became a city in 1999.

Family

Modesta Aguinaldo, 79, did not hide her anger over the killing of his nephew whom she considered as her son.

"We pray that whoever did this to him would suffer the consequences of his act. We just want justice, that would be our solace," she said between sobs.

"It is so painful because all his good deeds for his countrymen all went to naught. He was well loved by Cagayanos," she added.

It was Modesta who raised Aguinaldo. His mother died 17 days after he was born in 1946.

His 84-year-old father, Felix Aguinaldo, kept to himself at the family's ancestral home in Laoag City when he learned of his son's killing.

Father and son met for the last time in Laoag City five days ago when the congressman visited him in Barangay Sampaloc.

Modesta described Aguinaldo as "a quiet and friendly boy who was fond of planting root crops and vegetables."

THUMBS UP for the media from Aguinaldo who was in hiding after the killing of AFP spokesman Gen. Oscar Florendo. FILE PHOTO/VAL HANDUMON

"When he took the entrance test at the Philippine Military Academy for the second time, we knew it was his destiny to be a military man," she said.

Aguinaldo graduated as a distinguished cadet in 1972. He was also awarded the Superintendent's Cup, Dean's Cup and Athletic Cup.

Military career

In his book "Dark Legacy: Human Rights Under the Marcos Regime," however, Alfred McCoy described Aguinaldo as anything but quiet and friendly.

"Only his (Ferdinand Marcos') former understudy, then Lieutenant and now Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo of the 5th CSU (Constabulary Security Unit) could rival his psychopathic interrogations," McCoy said.

The dreaded CSU was credited with the capture of top communist leaders, including Jose Ma. Sison, and gained notoriety for the alleged torture charges filed against its members.

Among the prominent members of the CSU were Aguinaldo, Lt. Col. Rodolfo Tor and former Lt. Col. Billy Bibit.

McCoy observed that Aguinaldo and his colleagues in the CSU employed a "distinctive form of psychological torture with wider implications for the military and its society" instead of a simple physical brutality.

Aguinaldo later joined the Reform the AFP Movement that revolted against Marcos in 1984. The civilian-back revolt led to the People Power Revolution of 1986 and the eventual downfall of Marcos.

The RAM officers, including Aguinaldo, subsequently tried but failed seven times to topple then President Corazon Aquino.

Aguinaldo led the military rebel forces in Cagayan in August 1987 and 1989. He was then the provincial commander of the now defunct Philippine Constabulary.

He was subsequently cleared of rebellion charges. He resigned from the military and served as Cagayan governor from 1988 to 1998. He then became a congressman representing Cagayan's third district.

Cagayan residents believe Aguinaldo had an *agimat* (amulet) to protect him against the communist New People's Army and other political enemies.

The amulet did not work on Tuesday night.

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'No ceasefire, ransom, deal'

(From page A1)

The President on Monday acceded to a demand by Sabaya to bring in two Malaysians, former Sen. Sairin Karno and businessman Yusuf Hamdanto, to try to end the crisis after the rebels threatened to behead their American hostages.

Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. cited another reason for Manila's decision not to tap Malaysia.

He disclosed that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhamad had said that it was not the policy of the Malaysian government to intervene in other country's internal affairs.

"Malaysia said it is a domestic problem and it is their policy not to intervene," Guingona said. "No more foreign participation."

Guingona has turned down an offer by the Libyan government to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf on behalf of the Philippine government.

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi on Saturday offered Ms Macapagal to help settle the hostage crisis.

Ms Macapagal assured the nation that the government's no-ransom policy had not changed.

"The door is open for talks with the Abu Sayyaf. But this does not mean that we are going to make a deal with them. Negotiations should be limited only to the unconditional release of the hostages," the President said.

The President said her government would give what the Abu Sayyaf deserved.

"They live by the draconian code of 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.' We have responded in kind. We will continue to meet fire with fire and more," the President said.

Ms Macapagal warned that troops would offer "no mercy" to civilians aiding Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

"There will be no letup in our campaign until we rid Basilan and Sulu of the Abu Sayyaf force," she said in a press conference.

"Because of this, I am also warning the civilians who are helping the Abu Sayyaf. To those who give shelter, food, arms, water or information to the bandits, we will not forgive you. Even if you are relatives or friends, there is a punishment that awaits you," Ms Macapagal said.

Military campaign intensifies

The war rhetoric also reverberated in Mindanao as the government intensified military operations against the bandits in several fronts across the hinterlands of Basilan a day after the reported beheading of Sobero.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, head of Task Force Comet, said additional soldiers had been sent to "pulverize" the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu.

Fresh clashes erupted in the mountainous areas of Lantawan town on Wednesday as the military tried to recover the 15 hostages taken from the Golden Harvest coconut plantation, according to Dominguez.

Dominguez, chief of the First Tabak Division, said that many bandits had fallen. Seven bandits have been confirmed dead and scores wounded, he said.

Reyes, Lina to Basilan

The President sent Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Interior Secretary Jose Lina to Basilan to ensure that her message to the civilian community on the island would be heard loud and clear.

On Monday, two suspected bandits were killed and two were wounded, when several men attempted to snatch firearms from soldiers of the 24th Special Forces of the Philippine Army in Barangay Baligi, Ilumbang, Isabela City.

In Tipo-Tipo, soldiers of the 32nd Infantry Brigade and civilian volunteers killed five and wounded two of some 80 bandits in a clash Tuesday.

Tipo-Tipo Mayor Joel Maturan confirmed that five bandits had been killed in the clashes in Barangays Kamilig and Kamamburingan, where he said witnesses had reported sightings of Sabaya and some hostages.

"We received an information that their next target would be Tipo-Tipo after attacking Lamitan. So we were prepared a week ahead," Maturan said.

He said the clash on Tuesday lasted for almost two hours with no casualties on the government side.

He said that the military's response was a blow to the main Abu Sayyaf group headed by Sabaya, although only three bodies of the fallen bandits had been recovered.

The bodies of the bandits were brought to Isabela town for their relatives to claim. But the bodies were so riddled with bullets, that they were beyond recognition even to the bandits' relatives.

Please arm us

Maturan said even unarmed but enraged civilians of Tipo-Tipo joined in the search for the bandits.

The civilians have been anxiously waiting to be armed, he said. But he said the civilians, even if they were armed only with bolos, were still willing to go after the bandits.

"Please arm us so that we could fight the Abu Sayyaf," the mayor appealed to the government.

Maturan, who was a former battalion commander of the defunct Civilian Home Defense Force, said almost half of their civilian volunteers were unarmed, and those who could find arms had to borrow or rent them.

Some 500 families have been affected by the clashes in Tipo-Tipo. They are in need of government assistance.

"*Wag nila kaming pabayaan* (Don't neglect us)," Maturan said, addressing his appeal to the national government.

Crying for justice

Ms Macapagal said the whole nation and the world were crying for justice for the victims killed by the Abu Sayyaf.

"We will give justice to the victims while pursuing the government's twin objectives against criminality. First, rescue of the hostages without anyone of them getting killed or wounded and the pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf until they are decimated or surrender," she said.

The President said the citizens should not lose their trust in the military and police.

"If we really want to have a lasting solution we really need to have the civilian population very involved," she said.

This, she said, was the mission she gave to Reyes and Lina who were ordered to leave immediately for Basilan.

No excuses

"The task in Basilan is a difficult task," Reyes said. "We are not offering any excuses. We've made mistakes but our soldiers are paying daily for it with their lives but it's important that people not lose their faith and confidence in us because we are doing our best for the people," he said.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos threw his support behind President Macapagal's hardline stance.

He said that the public should not belittle the capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in crushing the Abu Sayyaf bandits who seemed invincible in the face of massive military operations.

"This is not a purely military operation. There are civilians in between and public and private property must be respected," Ramos told a briefing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival from India.

Gray areas

"This is one of the classic situations that war is not peace and peace is not war. There's some gray areas in between and we should be smart enough to know that you cannot conduct conventional bombing, artillery or all-out military effort," he said.

In Tuguegarao City, Muslims urged the President to use all possible means, except tapping American soldiers, to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf. There are 4,000 Muslims in Cagayan Valley.

Hadji Moctar Datu Regaro, president of the Muslim Association in Cagayan Valley, said the bandits were "unIslamic, coward people."

Regaro said Muslims in other parts of the country are suffering because of the Abu Sayyaf.

He was injured in the feet after a tricycle driver sideswiped his motorbike in Tuguegarao.

"Who knows the driver hated me (and mistook) me as an Abu Sayyaf because I was in my Muslim attire," he said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila; Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Alexander M. Young, Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

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2 headless bodies found in Basilan

(From page A1)

"Both pretended to be emissaries. They were found out," Agence France Presse quoted a ranking military official in Zamboanga as saying.

In a news conference yesterday morning, Servando said soldiers had spent two days scouring Tuburan town for the body of American hostage Guillermo Sobero.

On Tuesday, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya claimed that they had beheaded Sobero and dumped his body by a roadside in Tuburan.

But Servando said that as of yesterday, "the military has not recovered the body of Mr. Sobero."

He said Sobero's reported beheading was just "a bluff of Mr. Sabaya."

In Kuala Lumpur, Farouk Hussein, a former Moro rebel, told Reuters yesterday that "in the past, there have been beheadings but also, on a few occasions, threats like this turned out to be untrue."

"I hope this is the case now," he said.

Hussein, a member of the Moro National Liberation Front, which signed a peace accord with the government in 1995, said he had been involved in previous hostage negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf but that he was not invited to do so this time.

"You are dealing with a totalitarian kind of people. Some of them are claiming to have political goals, some are being branded as pure and simple bandits or kidnap-for-ransom groups," he said. "From my little experience of negotiating with them, I think there is some wisdom in talking to them."

Latip

Later yesterday, Servando cited a report that a headless body believed to be that of Latip had been found somewhere in Tipo-Tipo.

He said the information came from Tipo-Tipo Mayor Joel Maturan, "but that remains an unconfirmed report."

The Associated Press quoted Maturan as saying that Latip and three other supposed negotiators had tried to approach the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The three supposedly fled when Sabaya grew angry.

According to Maturan, Sabaya ordered his men to tie up Latip in the form of a cross.

They "immediately chopped off his head," Maturan said. "Sabaya ordered the beheading of the priest on suspicion that he was spying for the military."

It was not clear what the supposed negotiators' offer was, or when the beheading took place.

Golez said the supposed negotiators were not working for the government.

Outrage

The supposed beheading of Sobero and the others has outraged Muslims and Christians alike.

In Digos City, Muslim residents said the Abu Sayyaf had gone too far.

"They are followers of Satan. In the Koran, Satan did everything, including pretending to be a believer, to mislead those following the path of Allah," said Karim Samalia, a member of the conservative Tableegh, a group of fundamentalist scholars.

Muslims had earlier condemned the Abu Sayyaf's activities, but their rage was stoked by news that two Muslims were not spared.

But the Moro Islamic Liberation Front cautioned Muslims against immediately believing reports on the beheadings, saying these could have actually been carried out by the military.

"Who knows, these brothers of ours could have been mistaken for members of the Abu Sayyaf and might have been executed," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

In Negros Occidental, leaders of the Catholic Church condemned the reported beheading of Sobero.

"I appeal to the Abu Sayyaf to stop killing the hostages . . . I beg the Abu Sayyaf to stop all the atrocities now," Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said.

Navarra said "Allah is not pleased" with what the Abu Sayyaf was doing, which, he said, was against the Muslim tradition and religion.

He said the supposed beheading of Sobero would just worsen the bandit group's image.

Msgr. Victorino Rivas of the Diocese of Bacolod described the reported beheading of hostages as "atrocious and outrageous."

In a statement issued by her office in Manila, Sen. Loren Legarda said "the atrocities committed by the Abu Sayyaf have driven (its members) far beyond the tenets of Islam."

"The Abu Sayyaf can no longer claim that what they did was for Islam," Legarda said. "No religion justifies the killing of innocent people."

Heaven

Beheading is the ultimate form of cruelty in the Islamic world, said Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, spokesperson of the Philippine Army.

"It's the worst thing they can do to you because if they decapitate you, or separate your head from your body, you will not go to heaven," Mabanta said.

The Army officer was speaking from his personal knowledge of Islamic traditions, which he acquired during his eight years of duty in Mindanao.

According to Mabanta, Muslims believe that a person who dies will ride a *burak* (white horse) in the journey to eternal life.

"You should be immaculate to ride the white horse," he said. "If you're mutilated or burned, then you're no longer pure and therefore cannot make that trip."

Muslims take death so seriously that taking the life of another human being should be for a just cause, Mabanta pointed out.

He said the Koran, as well as books on the *jihad* (Islamic holy war), does not allow harming innocent persons or injuring children.

Even the slaughter of animals for food is preceded by a prayer, he noted.

Citing his experience in combat against the MILF, Mabanta said the secessionist rebels were not known to decapitate people, including those vanquished in battle.

"To my personal knowledge, they never do this," he said.

Mabanta raised these points in an effort to add context to the opinion that the Abu Sayyaf was no more than a bandit group rather than the Islamic freedom fighter it had been styling itself to be.

"Even from the point of view of Islam, the Abu Sayyaf (members) are barbarians. And that's why even the *ulama* (religious leaders) have condemned their activities," he said.

Recently, the League of Ulama criticized the Abu Sayyaf for its activities and urged it not to cause further damage to the religion of Islam.

Sabaya responded by threatening to execute the *ulama*.

The public first took notice of the Abu Sayyaf's practice of beheading when the bandits decapitated two male teachers as a sordid "birthday gift" to then President Joseph Estrada on April 19 last year.

This was at the height of a hostage crisis in Basilan that erupted when the bandits seized more than 50 schoolchildren, teachers and a priest.

The bandits also killed a female teacher and lopped off her breasts.

Two of the Dos Palmas hostages were also killed by the bandits. One Armando Bayona—was beheaded.

Hostage Eldrin Morales, who was able to escape in Basilan, had deep hack wounds in his nape—a result of an aborted decapitation.

Mabanta, however, expressed doubt that the bandits had beheaded American hostage Guillermo Sobero.

"The three Americans are their prized possessions," Mabanta said. "As much as possible, they will keep them alive as bargaining chips." *Reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Alexander Young and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Inquirer wires*

Erap, Jinggoy get . . .

(From page A1)

and his son Jinggoy.

The Sandiganbayan court ruled last week that Estrada, who was arrested April 25 on accusations of massive corruption, must leave the hospital and return to the detention center as soon as he is fit to do so.

The anti-graft court also ruled against Estrada's request for house arrest.

But lawyers of the Estradas are fighting tooth and nail to prevent the transfer of their clients to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa town.

They submitted a supplemental motion to their earlier plea asking the court to reconsider a resolution denying house arrest for their clients.

In the motion, the lawyers asked the Sandiganbayan to allow their clients to attend the opening in July of the 12th Congress when President Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver her first State of the Nation Address.

They also asked the anti-graft court to allow father and son to attend the oath-taking ceremonies of both incoming San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and Senator-elect Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

As if these were not enough, the lawyers want Jinggoy, the outgoing San Juan mayor, to clear his desk for the incoming mayor.

Jinggoy also wants to undergo additional tests for his heart at the Makati Medical Center.

The lawyers said that if their motions for house arrest or transfer to Camp Crame were denied, their clients should be detained at their rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where the former leader could try his hand as a farmer.

Police said they planned to transfer Estrada back to Fort Sto. Domingo on June 19, the day after he is to make an initial court appearance.

Salvador Flores, VMMC director, and Casison submitted the medical bulletin yesterday to the Sandiganbayan's third division.

"In our last Medical Bulletin in May 2001, as per our evaluation after the two-week antibiotic treatment and workup, we stated that there were no new findings to warrant additional treatment and workup," the two doctors said in the medical bulletin.

"At present, based on his (the elder Estrada's) clinical course, we find no new developments in his 'chronic bronchitis and emphysema' and 'osteoarthritis of both knees' and therefore find no urgent or compelling reasons to institute additional treatment and workup," they said.

For the younger Estrada, the VMMC doctors said that his private physicians had recommended a temporary transfer to the Makati Medical Center for additional tests called Thallium Nuclear Cardiac Imaging and, if needed, coronary angiogram.

The VMMC does not have the equipment for the two procedures.

Sunning up

Lawyers Rene Saguisag and Felix Carao Jr., in their supplemental motion, said that the Estradas had not been able to "sun" themselves for some weeks, a right that they noted was accorded communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.

They also said that if the stay of the Estradas at the VMMC "must now end and Camp Crame is out," Tanay would be an option.

"According to President Estrada, to keep himself busy, he can work the land (and who knows if he may not have a green thumb). He is going on 65, with a variety of ailments . . . and as pointed out, (needs) time in the sun, literally," the lawyers said.

The proposal came amid reports that the Estradas were seen by golfers at the VMMC compound jogging in the hospital premises at various times.

Four presidents

The lawyers admitted that arranging four Presidents in one occasion "requires a lot a reflection and study" but added that they would still want their clients to be allowed to attend the opening of the 12th Congress.

Former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos are expected to attend the opening of the 12th Congress.

Saguisag and Carao said people would want to see powerful images of reconciliation but added that "justice must, of course, be done."

"They (Estradas) have been cooperating in their own way to heal and bind the nation's wounds and give a better life to our people," the lawyers said.

New battleground

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo was sighted yesterday at the Sandiganbayan, peering at the third division courtroom where a Mass was to be held.

He said he was merely surveying the "battleground," as it would be the first time that he would be appearing before the anti-graft court.

Marcelo disclosed that he was thinking of reconvening the impeachment trial team and inviting former Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada and Albay Rep. Filemon Lagman to join as "private prosecutors."

GMA plans to activate anti-kidnap superbody

(From page A1)

The President said she expected some opposition to the creation of a superbody, much like what happened to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force of former President Joseph Estrada that she abolished.

"Having a superbody doesn't mean taking responsibility away from a specific agency whose mandate is to do that . . . We're working toward a very well-coordinated, revitalized superbody that will oversee all of these things," she said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said he was meeting with the Singapore ambassador to discuss the kidnapping cases.

He said the police had leads on the recent cases.

"(I'm confident) that like what happened in the past, we will be able to solve these cases very soon," Lina said.

"It appears that they (kidnappers) are really targeting businessmen from Singapore," said Chief Supt. Thompson Lantion, director for police community relations.

"We don't want to be alarmist here (in saying) that foreign nationals are being targeted particularly. But we'd like to take precautions. We have a saying here—forewarned is forearmed," Lantion said.

Singapore's foreign ministry had asked Manila to ensure the safety of Singaporeans and advised its nationals to exercise extra care and caution in the country.

On Tuesday, the Straits Times of Singapore reported that Ng Yiong Hua paid Filipino kidnappers to free her husband, Yeo.

Yeo, 45, runs a business in the Philippines.

His kidnappers called up Ng in Singapore and initially demanded S$1 million for his release. She went to the police and the foreign ministry, which put her in touch with the Singapore Embassy in Manila. Ng went to Manila to negotiate with the kidnappers and the amount was finally reduced to S$300,000.

Yeo told the Straits Times that he was blindfolded and tied up most of the time during his ordeal, although he was not directly threatened with harm.

Ethnic Chinese-Filipinos and overseas Chinese are often targeted by kidnappers because they are more willing to pay a ransom than seek police help.

Anti-crime groups say that some rogue police officers are involved in kidnap gangs. *With reports from AP, AFP*

Sobero kin tie yellow ribbons on palm trees

(From page A1)

aries and longtime Philippine residents Martin and Gracia Burnham, the Abu Sayyaf's other two American hostages.

The couple and Sobero were among the 20 hostages taken by the bandits from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

Sobero, an avid diver, was at the resort on a scuba-diving trip. The couple were there to celebrate their 18th wedding anniversary.

The Burnhams' three children—Jeffrey, 14; Melinda, 11; and Zachary, 10—were at their home in the Philippines when the kidnapping occurred. They have since been brought to an undisclosed location in their parents' native Kansas, where family members are caring for them.

Very upset

The bandits' spokesperson Abu Sabaya announced Tuesday morning that they had beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day present" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He taunted authorities to look for Sobero's head near the town of Tuburan on Basilan's north coast "before stray dogs get to it."

Dobson said he had spoken with Fanny Sobero, and described her as "very upset."

Friends said the Soberos moved to California from Peru in the 1980s, and had lived in Corona, a town of 120,000, for about six years.

The two are divorcing but are still living together.

Contreras said their families would often gather for barbecues, and Dobson said her three children took the bus to school with 6-year-old Paul, the eldest of the Soberos' three sons. (The others are Andy, 3, and Liu, 2.)

Friends said the children did not know of their father's plight. "The family turns off the TV when the kids are around," family spokesperson Neuza Chiong told the Los Angeles Times. "As far as they know, Daddy is still away. What do you tell them?"

Chiong said Fanny had been in regular contact with the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"But there is no official news. This could be a false rumor. That's why we're all hopeful," Chiong said.

"We are waiting for that phone call to tell us that our brother is safe," Pablo Sobero, one of Guillermo Sobero's brothers, told the local Press-Enterprise newspaper.

Calls by Agence France Presse to the Sobero house were answered by an unidentified woman, who would only say that Fanny was "not available."

No evidence

In Manila, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, yesterday expressed the belief that Sobero could still be alive despite the Abu Sayyaf's claim.

Speaking at the weekly press conference in Malacañang of the President and her Cabinet, Adan said there had been "no physical evidence" to prove that Sobero was dead.

"It is the claim of only one man, Abu Sabaya," Adan said, adding:

"In the past there have been bluffs (aired) by this person, Mr. Sabaya, and he did not carry out what he said he will do. Of course, we hope he will not carry out or had not carried out his threat. But it is possible that Mr. Sobero is still alive somewhere in Basilan."

Adan said that as of yesterday morning, there had been no confirmation that a headless torso found in Basilan was that of Sobero.

"Yes, yes, we are hopeful that he's still alive," Adan said.

The President appeared annoyed by a question posed by a CNN correspondent about what she believed Sobero's fate was.

"It's not a question of what I believe his fate is," she snapped. "I think General Adan has already answered the question regarding that."

In Washington, US State Department spokesperson Philip Reeker told reporters that the murder of an innocent person was a "cowardly act."

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this reported action," Reeker said, adding that the United States held the Abu Sayyaf responsible for the safety of all its hostages.

Old enough

In Wichita, Kansas, Martin Burnham's parents, Paul and Oreta Burnham, said Tuesday that their grandchildren were kept informed of any confirmed developments involving the hostages.

"They do not know every detail, but they know the dangers," said Paul Burnham. "They are old enough that they can understand."

The elder Burnhams were in their Rose Hill home for a three-month sabbatical from their own Philippine mission when they got word May 27 that their son and daughter-in-law had been taken captive.

The Burnhams are all missionaries for New Tribes Mission, a non-denominational mission that works with remote tribes in the interior of the Philippines.

Since the abduction, New Tribes has pulled the six or seven missionaries it had stationed on the same island where the Burnhams were abducted, spokesperson Scott Ross said.

It is standard procedure for the mission to pull missionaries from known "hot spots," he said.

"We are always watching for risks, and if risks increase we will move people in and out of areas," Ross said. "It will not make us consider not working in the Philippines."

The family has kept the children away from unconfirmed news reports—such as the Abu Sayyaf's claim that Guillermo Sobero had been beheaded, Paul Burnham said.

He declined to say whether the family had been contacted by the Abu Sayyaf for the payment of ransom, saying that the topic was "too sensitive" to comment on.

The elder Burnhams also have two other grown children in missionary work in the Philippines, and another is a missionary in New Guinea. One daughter lives in Rose Hill.

New Tribes Mission, which boasts of 3,500 missionaries around the world, works specifically with remote tribes—translating the Bible and establishing churches in places few foreigners ever see.

Its missionaries must raise their own funds, Ross said. ***AFP, AP, Juliet L. Javellana***

Street kids tourney on Saturday

TUASON

OVER 5,000 street children from 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila are expected to converge during the launching of the Palaro ng Batang Lansangan at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Oval on Saturday starting 8 a.m.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the guest of honor.

Local government units representing Manila, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Quezon City, Marikina and Pasig are expected to send participants to compete in sports activities and fun games.

"The PNBL is a year-round PSC program offering opportunities for sports and recreation among street children in the hope of rebuilding their lives as productive citizens," said PSC Commissioner Cynthia L. Carrion, organizing committee chair.

Since the PNBL also has social and civic dimensions, Carrion said the PSC has tapped the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Interior and Local Government to help implement the plan.

"The PSC is committed to use sports as an effective tool to develop the personality of the country's less fortunate children. We also aim to inculcate in them the basic values of discipline and hard work," PSC chair Carlos D. Tuason said.

Through this campaign, the Unicef aims to raise the level of public awareness for children worldwide and urge people everywhere to send donations and pledges to the world agency to help improve and meet their needs.

"Street children, like all human beings, also have their rights. These rights need to be preserved and protected. One of these basic rights is to have access to play, recreation and sports," Carrion added.

The PNBL is supported by the Ginintuan at Makabayang Alay Foundation, the Department of Health, Armed Forces of the Philippines-Philippine National Police, Caltex Philippines, Pepsi Cola Philippines, Tourist Trade and Travel Corp., Prama Foundation, and Philtranco.

Asuncion too much for Katigbak

TOP seed Kennie Asuncion whipped Manila Polo Club's Alexis Katigbak, 11-0, 11-2, yesterday in the women's open division of the JVC Open Badminton championships.

Asuncion, a perennial member of the national team playing out of Valle Verde, will next face teammate Margot Manalang, whose quarterfinals opponent, Melody Villaceran of the University of the East, did not show up at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Also advancing to the women's open semifinals of the tournament sponsored by JVC Philippines in coordination with IMG Manila and backed by Spurway Enterprises, Bingo Bonanza Corp., Paraflex, Nike, Victor, Tokyo Tokyo and K Lite 103.5 are fourth seed Alma Ledesma, also of Valle Verde, and Manila Polo Club's Vanessa Tanco.

Ledesma posted an 11-2, 11-2 win over Kathleen Añasco of the Philippine national Police to reach the semifinals that shifts to the Activity Center of the Glorietta in Makati City beginning with today's semifinal hostilities.

Tanco, on the other hand, reached the final four following her 11-4, 11-7 triumph over Lyka Leonor also of PNP.

Motocross series resumes June 16

THE NATIONAL Motocross Super Series 2001 continues its southern swing with the staging of the fifth leg in Ormoc, Leyte, on Saturday, June 16.

Dubbed the "National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Ormoc and PLDT", the one-day event is expected to lure more than 100 motocross stars from Manila and other major cities and provinces in the country.

Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. is organizing the event in cooperation with MAD (Mamayan Ayaw sa Droga) and Kids Foundation. Host of the event is Macoy Larrazabal.

Venue of the event is the Ormoc Sports Complex.

Heading the list of participants in this prestigious competition sponsored by Bench, Yamaha, WG&A Super Ferry Smart ZED, Agua Vida, PLDT, Access Plus, Dreambikes Superstore and Transtainer Systems are Glen Aguilar, Ernie Leongson, Jing Leongson, Jovie Saulog and Bebet de la Cruz.

"Like in the previous four legs in Manila, Palawan and Guimaras Island, we expect most of the country's motocross stars to strut their wares anew," said Marilen Nunez of Hartebeest.

Triathlon set June 30

ORGANIZERS of Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon Series-2001 announced that the second leg of the series has been moved from June 9 to June 30 at the Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City.

The event was moved because the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association has a tournament on the same original date. The organizing First Wave Events Inc. gave way to provide participants the opportunity to join both events.

In the first staging of the meet supported by Smart Money, Lifebouy, Penshoppe, Bobcat, and MTV, and TRAP, 125 budding triathletes ages 7 to 18 turned out to compete, showing the growing popularity of this three-disciplined sport.

In the 7 to 10 years old bracket, the event is a 100-meter swim, 1 kilometer bike, and 500-meter run. In the 14 age group, participants swim 200 meters, bike 2 kilometers, and run 1 kilometer. The oldest group, 15 to 18 years, old will swim 300 meters, do a 3-km bike, then complete a 1.5km run.

"Since this is a purely amateur event in a sense, those who have already completed sprint triathlon will not be eligible to compete anymore, making the event more interesting among first timers in the sport. We envision this to be a family-based activity," said Raul Cuevas of First Wave.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. D Contractor 2. Grupo Grupo 3. Something Better 4. Septembermorn

Race 2—1. Nuts Again/I'll Be There 2. Guts Pleaser 3. Justsaywhenjen 4. Denon 5. He's Splendid

Race 3—1. Silver Angel 2. Rindo Maker 3. Color of the Wind 4. Masagana 5. Banahaw Jazz

Race 4—1. Heavy Metal 2. Raise D Sun 3. Champs Elysees 4. May's Magic 5. Ground Fighter

Race 5—1. Cool Sound 2. Intunda 3. Knows Love 4. Togsi's Ambition

Race 6—1. Khazan 2. Accommodating 3. Ocean Dignity 4. Majestic Ruler 5. Black Force

Race 7—1. Aya's Dream 2. Mahdi's Gold 3. Without Sin 4. Legitimo

Race 8—1. Baby Maxxine 2. Howard Huge 3. Batang Pier 4. Jhelen 5. Dona Evelyn

Subic hosts 2 Grand Prix legs Sunday

THE BATTLES in the 2001 Petron Grand Prix—the premier motorsports competition in the country—shift into high gear with the staging of the seventh and eighth rounds at the Subic International Raceway on Sunday, June 17

Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery tries to widen his lead over Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend and Jody Coseteng of Caltex-Eclipse-Red Horse-Team Tom's in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category.

Ong, winner of three of the first four rounds, has a six-leg aggregate of 40 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2 scoring system used by the organizing Sports Values Inc. (SVI).

Ramirez is second with 29 points, followed by Pazcoguin in third with 25 points and Coseteng in fourth with 20 points. A far fifth is Mike Aguilar of Caltex with 15 points.

"We expect another battle royale among the country's top drivers this weekend," said SVI president Pocholo Ramirez.

For inquiries, call Estela Casibang at the SVI secretariat in Pasig City at tel. 671-6926.

Tennis Challenge in Davao

ADIDAS Philippines lives up to its commitment to provide the Filipino youth a long-term sports development program when the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 kicks off at the Flores Village Tennis Club in Davao City on June 16-18.

The Adidas Tennis Challenge, an age group tournament conducted in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao regions, is being organized by the PSA and Scoop awardee Children's Tennis Workshop for the third straight year—with support from Milo and PTV-4 Saturday weekly show Sports Kids.

Featured events are the junior men's and women's 21-under, the boys' and girls' 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions.

"We want the Adidas Tennis Challenge to be a major part in developing a new breed of Filipino tennis players into the World-class level," said Adidas sales & marketing director Sonny Nebres. "This is in line with the worldwide sports program of Adidas.

After the initial Davao leg being coordinated with Philta regional VP Titong Cansino, the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 will also be organized in Cagayan de Oro City, Baguio, Cebu and Manila.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals Game #4 – Lakers vs 76ers at 9 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN, 11:30 a.m. on RPN 9 (r – 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)

GOLF: PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Highlights at 6 p.m. (r – 11:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 3:30 p.m. (r on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

U.S. Open Preview #3 at 10 p.m. on ESPN

U.S. Open First Round, Part I at 11 p.m., Part II tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN

MAPUA TECH AND NAMA TO HONOR
THE OUTSTANDING MAPUAN (TOM) AWARDEES
FOR THE YEAR 2001

TOM AWARDING CEREMONIES TO HIGHLIGHT 67th NAMA ANNUAL CONVENTION AND GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING ON JUNE 16 AT DUSIT

MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI (NAMA) will honor 19 of the most distinguished graduates of Mapua Tech as THE OUTSTANDING MAPUAN (TOM) AWARDEES for the year 2001 in ceremonies that will highlight the 67th NAMA ANNUAL CONVENTION AND GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING. This year's reunion of Mapua Tech graduates, coming from all over the country and even from abroad, will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2001, at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati. Class reunions especially of the Jubilee Classes will start at 3:00 p.m. and the Grand Alumni Homecoming at 6 in the afternoon. Registration for the reunions start at 2:00 p.m. and for the homecoming, 4:00 p.m.

Senator Renato L. Cayetano, a graduate of Mapua High School and a member of this year's Golden Jubilee Class of 1951, leads the TOM 2001 Awardees. Seven of the awardees come from various fields of professional practice, eight from various fields of specialized endeavors and four were cited for their international endeavors.

Mr. Alfonso S. Yuchengco III, Vice-Chairman of Mapua Institute of Technology and NAMA President, Engineer Willington K.K.C. Tan, will hand the TOM trophies to this year's TOM Awardees. They will be assisted by Dr. Consuelo Viray-Flora, Chairman of this year's Board of Judges, Engineer Olegario S. Serafica, Chairman of the Mapua Tech-NAMA 2001 TOM Search Committee, and Engineer Cesar "Bobby" Castro, Over-All Chair for this year's Convention and Homecoming Event.

The homecoming event will be highlighted by an inspirational speech from Mr. Alfonso S Yuchengco III. Mr. Yuchengco III, will be named, together with Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, Mapua Tech President, as NAMA Honorary Members

Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, Chairman, Mapua Institute of Technology, was the first to have been granted the distinguished honorary membership award by the premier alumni organization of Mapua Tech graduates during this millennium.

The joint Mapua Tech-NAMA Board of Judges for this year's TOM was headed by Dr Ma. Consuelo Viray-Flora who is, at present, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Mapua Tech. Ms. Milagros V. Reyes, Mapua Tech's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and Engineer Lauro D. Guevara, representing the Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI), served as Co-Chairs. Members were Engineer Cesar "Bobby" Castro, representing NAMA; Engineer Priscila N. Tagala, representing the Mapua Tech faculty; Engineer Augusto C. Soliman, NAMA's Immediate Past President; and Engineer Olegario S. Serafica, representing this year's MIT-NAMA TOM Search Committee.

HON. RENATO L. CAYETANO
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

ALFONSO T. YUCHENGCO, SR.
Ambassador
Chairman
Board of Trustees
Mapua Institute of Technology

ALFONSO S. YUCHENGCO, III
Vice Chairman
Board of Trustees
Mapua Institute of Technology

DR. REYNALDO B. VEA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mapua Institute of Technology

DR. MA. CONSUELO V. FLORA
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mapua Institute of Technology
Chair, MIT-NAMA 2001 TOM Board of Judges

WILLINGTON K.K.C. TAN
Vice President
Columbia Wire and Cable, Inc.
President, National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA)

CESAR D. CASTRO
President
CD Castro Consultancy, Inc
Over-all Chair, 67th NAMA Annual Convention and Grand Alumni Homecoming

OLEGARIO S. SERAFICA
Executive Vice President
Phil. Electronic Industry (PEI)
Vice President, MATEC
Chair, MIT-NAMA 2001 TOM Search Committee

The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Awards
MIT-NAMA Awardees for Year 2001 in International Fields of Endeavor

EDITH GARCIA-RAMOS
Past President
Southern California Mapua Alumni (SCMA)
ALUMNI SERVICE (USA)

PERFECTO ALQUIZA ARCA
President and Principal
P.A. Arca Engineering, Inc.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GERRY RULLODA
President
International Association of Mapua Alumni – Ontario (IAMAO)

LEILA ROJAS-RULLODA
Vice-President, Planning and Programs
International Association of Mapua Alumni–Ontario (IAMAO)

ALUMNI SERVICE (CANADA)

ALL GRADUATES OF MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING OF ALL MAPUANS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2001, AT THE GRAND BALLROOM OF DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO. EVENT STARTS AT SIX IN THE AFTERNOON. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE LOBBY/FOYER OF THE DUSIT GRAND BALLROOM.

The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Awards
MIT-NAMA Awardees for Year 2001 in Professional Fields of Practice

BEN SO SI HOK
Founder/General Manager
Ben So Si Hok & Associates
ARCHITECTURE

HERNANDO P. LIMSIN
Chairman
Lion Chemical Corp.
CHEMISTRY

JAIME F. CANCIO
Managing Principal
J.F. Cancio & Associates
CIVIL ENGINEERING

ROBERT C. CHAN
President/COO
Philippine Electric Corporation
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

ROBERTO M. MABILANGAN
Vice-President for Cannery
Del Monte Philippines
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

DANILO B. RULLODA
President & General Manager
Englerock Machinery Corp
METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

JOSE S. SARET
Vice President for Operations
Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp.
MINING ENGINEERING

The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Awards
MIT-NAMA Awardees for Year 2001 in Specialized Fields of Endeavor

HON. RENATO L. CAYETANO
Senator
Republic of the Philippines
GOVERNMENT SERVICE

BGEN. ADOLFO M. MONTESA
Brigadier General (Retired)
Armed Forces of the Philippines
MILITARY SERVICE

EUSTAQUIO CORONEL
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EPCOR Construction Consultancy
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

WILLIAM S. PAMINTUAN
Senior Vice President and Assistant Corporate Secretary
Digital Telecommunications Phils., Inc.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT

MIRIAM E. NECESITO
Dean, School of Industrial Engineering
Mapua Institute of Technology
ACADEME

HUGO T. PEREZ, JR.
President
Petrichem Industrial Sales and Admark Advertising Co. Inc.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

ROLANDO C. GONZALES
Past President, NAMA and the MIT ChE-Chem Alumni Association

CARMEN TIMOTEO-GONZALES
Past President
MIT ChE-Chem Alumni Association
Active in NAMA

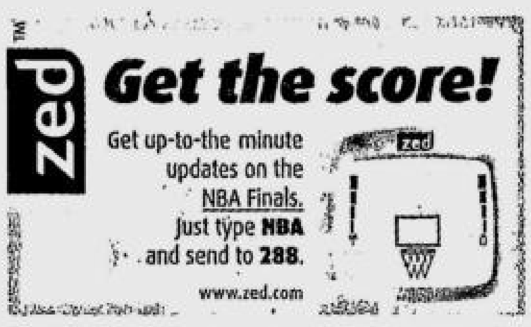
ALUMNI SERVICE

ALL MEMBERS OF MIT JUBILEE CLASSESS (1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 AND 1991) ARE INVITED TO FORM THEIR OWN CLASS REUNIONS AND HOLD THEM, FOR FREE, AT THE ASANA AND TANGUILE FUNCTION ROOMS OF DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 5:45 P.M. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2001. REGISTRATION OF JUBILARIANS START AT 2:00 P.M. ON JUNE 16, 2001.

RP golfer just 1 shot off

SINGAPORE—Lyndon Barril of the Philippines shot a one-over-par 73 yesterday to trail the Indian leader by just a stroke after the opening round of the Singapore Junior Golf Championships. Michael Bibat had a 79. The two jungolfers earned a trip after topping the recent national age-group championships conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines in coordination with the Philippine Sports Commission. They are sponsored by Dockers.

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor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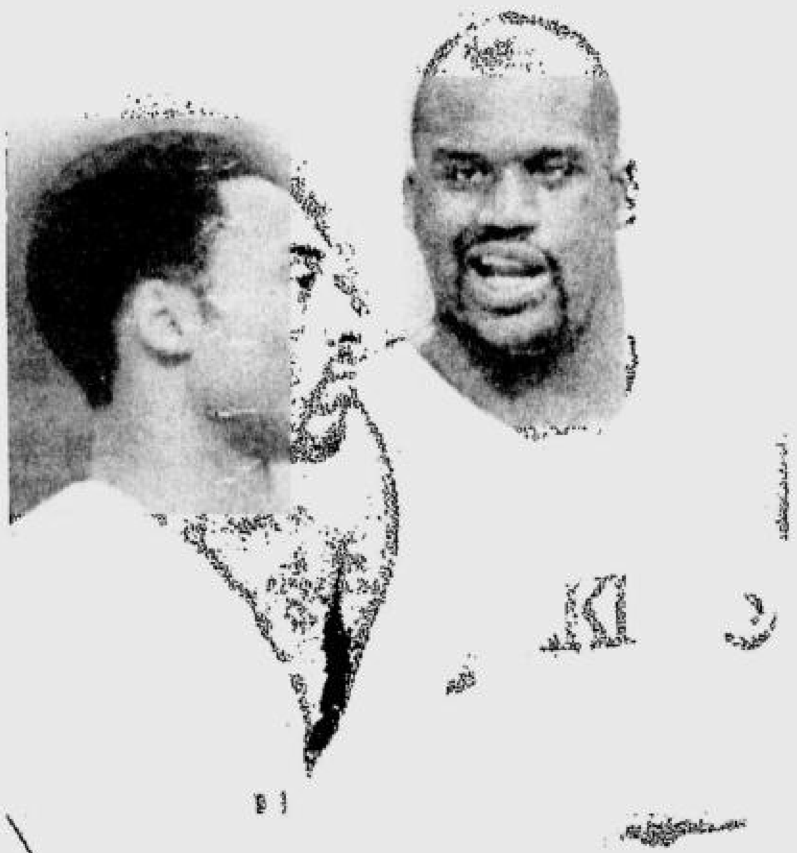
GAME 4 TODAY

Kobe gives ultimate threat to 76ers



O'NEAL (right) says something to Bryant during the Lakers practice. AP

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant has issued the ultimate threat to a Philadelphia 76ers team that has battled through injury and adversity with willpower and heart.

"We're going to cut your hearts out Wednesday," Bryant said.

The comment, made to hecklers after game three, sums up the confidence of the defending champions entering Game Four of the best-of-seven NBA Finals here Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) in Bryant's hometown.

"I don't care what each team does or what the series looks like. Doesn't matter," Bryant said. "We're the world champs and you have to take what we have. The title comes through us."

Powered by the playmaking of Bryant and the punishing physical skills of Shaquille O'Neal, the Lakers lead the series 2-1. No team has recovered from a 3-1 deficit in the NBA Finals.

"We are going to come out and play much better than any game we have played before," 76er center Dikembe Mutombo said. "We need this game. We need it so bad. We don't want to look at ourselves Thursday down 3-1."

Taunts

O'Neal and Mutombo have traded taunts the same way they trade shoves for position under the basket. The game, and the series, could turn on the outcome of their matchup.

"We're two warriors. I know it will be a war," O'Neal said. "I respect him. (Trash talk) is nothing but us trying to bring the ratings up."

Mutombo, the NBA's Defensive Player of the year, plans no changes to his style of guarding O'Neal, what Shaq calls flopping.

"I don't let anything get in my head, make me loose focus on what we are trying to do," O'Neal said. "I'm going to come and play well no matter what he is bringing."

The 76ers were unable to take game three despite O'Neal having fouled out in the closing minutes. And although they have kept each game tight after the Lakers won earlier games in routs, the 76ers have faded late.

"It's all about winning," O'Neal said. "It doesn't matter whether we win by 20 points and one or half a centimeter of a point. Whether you have a Mercedes with the rims or without the rims, guess what? You still have a Mercedes."

Meanwhile, coach Phil Jackson is even monitoring the way his players breathe and chew gum as he prepares the Lakers for Game Four against the 76ers.

Jackson, who coached Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls to six rings and has guided the Lakers to a title last year and a 2-1 lead in this season's Finals, knows all about the pressures of postseason road games.

Pressure

"We hope our players adjust to the fact that the intense amount of pressure playing in the playoffs becomes something that's livable," Jackson said on Tuesday before practice for Wednesday's pivotal game.

"You absorb it and you use it for energy and for what it's worth to play better. I think that's really an important part.

Risking their health for their title dreams, the 76ers are limping through the finals with more courage than common sense.

George Lynch is hobbled with a broken left foot. Aaron McKie has pushed himself beyond exhaustion. And Matt Geiger is risking serious injury and taking more painkilling medicine than he normally would prefer.

They are well enough to play or else doctors simply would forbid it. But all are pushing themselves to the limit because the Los Angeles Lakers own a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals with game four here Wednesday. *AFP*

Viva telecast

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast Game Four of the NBA Finals between the Lakers and 76ers today at 11:30 a.m. on RPN-9, with a replay at 5:30 p.m. on IBC-13.

Shark-Welcoat series gets going

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs GIV Beauty Soap (for 3rd)
5:30 p.m.—Shark Energy vs Welcoat Paints (championship)

By DENNIS EROA

DEFENDING champion Welcoat Paints starts its quest for revenge as it battles tormentor Shark Energy Drink today in Game One of the PBL Chairman's Cup best-of-seven title series at the Makati Coliseum.

No longer invincible after relinquishing the Challenge Cup crown to Shark in February, the Paintmasters still remain as slight favorites against the Power Boosters.

Game One starts at 5:30 p.m., after the 3:30 p.m. best-of-three encounter for third spot between Ana Freezers and GIV Beauty Soap.

Shark needed three overtime periods to subdue GIV, 96-93, while Welcoat came back from 19-points down to whip Ana, 72-58, in the crossover semifinals last Tuesday.

"We're ready," said Shark mentor Leo Austria. "Shark attack is for real."

His Welcoat counterpart, Junel Baculi, predicted the series will reach Game Six. But he's not telling whether the Paintmasters will emerge on top. "It's up to you to guess," Baculi told sportswriters. "But I don't have to tell you that we're hungry for revenge. This is going to be a dogfight because both teams are all-out to win."

In the Challenge Cup, the Paintmasters won the first two games, but the Power Boosters, fueled mainly by the explosive plays of now Purefoods reliever Roger Yap, managed to squeeze out a monumental 4-3 victory in the series.

The 6-foot Yap is no longer around and coach Austria are relying on Chester Tolomia, Rolly Basilides, Rysal Castro, Jing Rodriguez, MC Caceres and Gilbert Malabanan to counter Welcoat's solid lineup.

Tolomia leads

AFTER the semifinal round, Shark Energy Drink forward Chester Tolomia still leads the race for the Most Valuable Player award derby of the ongoing 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum. Welcoat slotman Yancy de Ocampo was second and Ana Freezer's Roland Pascual third.

Andok's nips FedEx, 90-88

GAMES TOMORROW *(Cebu City Coliseum)*
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Negros
5:30 p.m.—San Juan vs Cebu

By ROY LUARCA

THE ANDOK'S San Juan Knights' guns jammed in the fourth quarter and barely escaped with a 90-88 victory over the FedEx Laguna Lakers last night in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the San Juan Gym.

Ahead by 23 points, the Knights got blanked for 7 minutes and 5 seconds, allowing the Lakers to threaten behind a 21-point run anchored by the fastbreak plays of Mike Garcia and Richie Melencio.

The Knights even had a chance to reverse the outcome, but Chris Clay's crowded three-point attempt as the buzzer sounded was off-line, giving San Juan its second in three outings.

Laguna, unable to dish off its run-gun offense, trailed by as many as 25 points as the Lakers got stymied by the defense of Knight Omanzie Rodriguez, who swatted away a league-record 11 attempts. Rodriguez also held the old mark of 10 blocks,

Earlier, the LBC Batangas Blades took a long time hitting full throttle before dumping the Nueva Ecija Patriots, 90-76.

Struggling with their shots, the Blades trailed by as many as 10 points in the first quarter before nibbling at that lead and taking the half, 54-53.

The scores:

LBC BLADES 90—Compton 15, Laure 13, Martin 13, Adducul 12, Rivera 9, Serrano 8, Espinosa 8, Antonio 6, Corbin 4, Sanders 1, Cuevas 1, Mapalad 0.

NUEVA ECIJA 76—Bautista 22, De Guzman 15, J. de Guzman 11, Aquino 8, Manucat 7, Bansil 5, Racho 5, Allen 2, De Guia 1, Makalintal 0, Bunyi 0.

Quarters: 23-29, 54-53, 70-62, 90-76.

Pop whips Shell; Alaska up

By JUNE NAVARRO

ABARRIENTOS

ANTIPOLO City—Pop Cola lost steam in the homestretch but kept its poise to beat Shell, 75-68, last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Sports Center here.

Johnny Abarrientos' fade away jumper with 1:33 left lifted the Panthers to safer grounds as they broke into the win column after two setbacks.

Alaska Milk gained the solo lead after a 94-84 thrashing of San Miguel Beer in the second game. The Aces improved to 3-0, while the Beermen fell to 2-1.

The Zoom Masters unleashed a 13-5 windup to close in but several turnovers and luckless attempts derailed their bid to notch their second win in as many games.

"We have the best start compared to our first two games. Now, we must sustain this level of play against other teams," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes.

True, the Panthers summoned the fire not found in their last two outings as they touched off a 15-0 volley in the first quarter.

With Pop Cola reinforcement Jason Sasser taking over, the Panthers even padded the lead at halftime, 43-28.

Things, however, went awry in the third canto as Shell playmaker Dale Singson sparked a mild uprising that pushed the Zoom Masters within 10, 57-47, at the start of the payoff period.

But Nelso Asaytono drilled six points in the ensuing play that augured well for the Panthers.

Scores:

POP COLA 75—Sasser 31, Antonio 10, Hatfield 9, Junio 7, Asaytono 6, Abarrientos 6, Morano 2, Ballesteros 2, Bolado 2, Jose 0.

SHELL 68—Hawkins 18, Telan 15, Singson 12, Hrabak 11, Jackson 6, Marzan 4, Wainwright 2, Lim 0, Dualan 0.

Quarterscores: 26-7, 43-28, 57-47, 75-68.

POC backs Lito

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee yesterday gave recognition to the election of Gonzalo Lito Puyat as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

In a two-page statement, the POC said the BAP election on June 7 was done in accordance with the association's Constitution and bylaws and therefore should be recognized.

Guerrero, Dacanay shine in KL

A SYDNEY Olympian and a consistent record holder stamped their class by bagging four golds each even as the Philippines tied Indonesia at fourth with 16 golds in the 25th Southeast Asia Age Group Swimming Championship held recently in Kuala Lumpur.

Jenny Guerrero started her winning run in the 15-17 age group when she snared the 50-m breaststroke with a time of 35.02. She made waves in the 100-200 breast by clocking 1:14.63 and 2:38.62, respectively. Capping her four-gold haul is a 2:28.26 time in the 200 individual medley.

"I just ignored my shoulder injury and went for the gold," said Guerrero.

Luica Dacanay sizzled in the 50m backstroke in 32.17 to go with her time of 1:07.63 in the 100m back and 2:25.35 in the 200m back. Dacanay wound up her rampage when she clocked 2:23.48 in the 200m butterfly to outclass the host country's top bet, Cindy Ong, who timed 2:23.76.

Others who shone in the three-day meet were Mars Danila with 3 golds, 1 silver, 1 bronze, Gerard Bordado (3 golds), Louie Marquez (2 golds, 1 silver), Jonathan Villagracia (2 silvers, 1 bronze), Veronica Manotoc (2 silvers), Evan Grabador (3 bronzes), Lynette Ang (2 bronzes), Nhemia Velasco and Benjamin Uy (1 bronze apiece).

Singapore reigned supreme with 30 golds, with Thailand checking in second with 26.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old national swimmer Timmy Chua clocked 30.09 to set a new Philippine record in the 50-m breaststroke and shatter the 30.56 RP mark of Raymond Palmares. *Senen Bravo*

Benitez, Granger take kegfest limelight

VETERAN bowler Irene Benitez of Sletba and American coach Purvis Granger came up with big scores Tuesday to take the spotlight in the Boysen-PBC Open 2001 championships at the Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Benitez, a long-time national bowler who has performed creditably in various international tournaments, rolled a two-game series of 846 pins to pace Liza del Rosario (831) and Joylyn Yambao (826) in the open singles event of the kegfest sponsored by Boysen and Philippine Sports Commission and supported by Goldilocks, Filkor, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart and Storm products.

Granger, the RP team's foreign coach, collected 1776 pins to wrest the open men's all-events' lead from Benny Dytoc (1729).

Arianne Cerdena and Jojo Canare of the RP team also shared the limelight by scoring 856 to break the doubles mark of 851 set by Liza Clutario and Liza del Rosario.

PBAP's Nichol Yap, TBAM-Prima's Eric Arkoncel and Bimbo Mesina and CAS' Ching Co, Ampelle Alvarez and Sandra Enriquez emerged as the other new frontrunners in the tourney.

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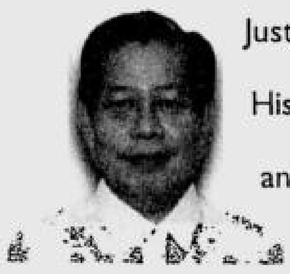
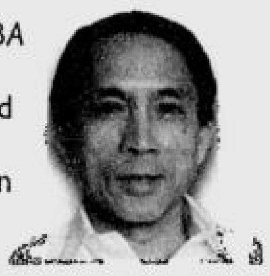
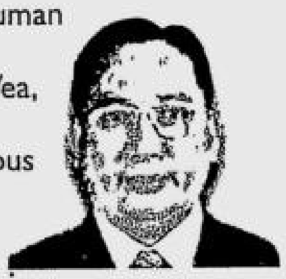
On June 16, the President is going back to school.

Not to enroll in any of our courses but to grace the 2001 University of the Philippines General Alumni Homecoming and Reunion as Most Distinguished Alumna. Come June 16 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who received her *MA* in 1979 and *Ph.D.* in 1985 will be honored for her courage, steadfastness and decisiveness in her governance.

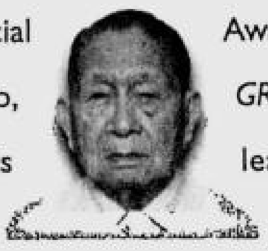
She will share the limelight with this year's UP Alumni awardees. Heading the list for Outstanding Professional Awards is Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., *AA'55, BSJ'58* and *LLB '59*. His undoubted knowledge of the law, unassailable integrity and his role in reviving the hope and confidence of the Filipino people in the country's justice system makes him the unquestionable choice for Outstanding Professional Awardee in Law. Also awarded is Mr. Jorge Araneta, *BSBA '58*, for Business Administration. He is admired for his acuity and dynamism in heading the expansion and development of the Cubao district into a thriving commercial hub; Professor Corazon Generoso-Inigo, *BPE'51*, whose vigilance in nurturing the art of dance and uplifting it to a level of national prominence won her the award for Education/Human Kinetics; Engineering awardee Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, BSME'77 magna cum laude, known for his prodigious contribution to the technological advancement of the country's shipping industry; Information Technology awardee, Mrs. Cynthia Romero-Mamon, *BSHT '73* and *MAgBM '76* graduate will be recognized for her undoubted status as one of the industry leaders in the Philippine Information-Technology sector; Professor Randolf S. David, *AB'65* whose expertise brought the discipline of sociology to a wider audience will be given the Social Sciences (Sociology) award.







Bestowed with the UPAA Special Award in Forestry is Dr. Gregorio T. Zamuco, *GR'21* and *LLD '89 honoris causa*, for his leadership in the cause of Forestry Education.



Dr. Josefa Sevilla-Eusebio, a *BSHE '57* graduate, will receive the National Community Service Award for developing the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutritional Improvement (BIDANI) to aid the rural poor.

The UP Medical Alumni Society in America gets the UPAA Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award.

This year's Most Outstanding Graduate Awards go to Ms. Katherine Anne Victoria D. Fernandez, *BM'01* summa cum laude and Mr. Neil Ongkingco, *BSCS '01* summa cum laude.

The UP Alumni Awards wouldn't be complete without the Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awards which will go to Professors Lucio D. San Pedro, *TD'38 DHum '91*, National Artist for Music and Jose R. Velasco, *BSA'40* cum laude, renowned National Scientist.

UP in the Inform@tion Age

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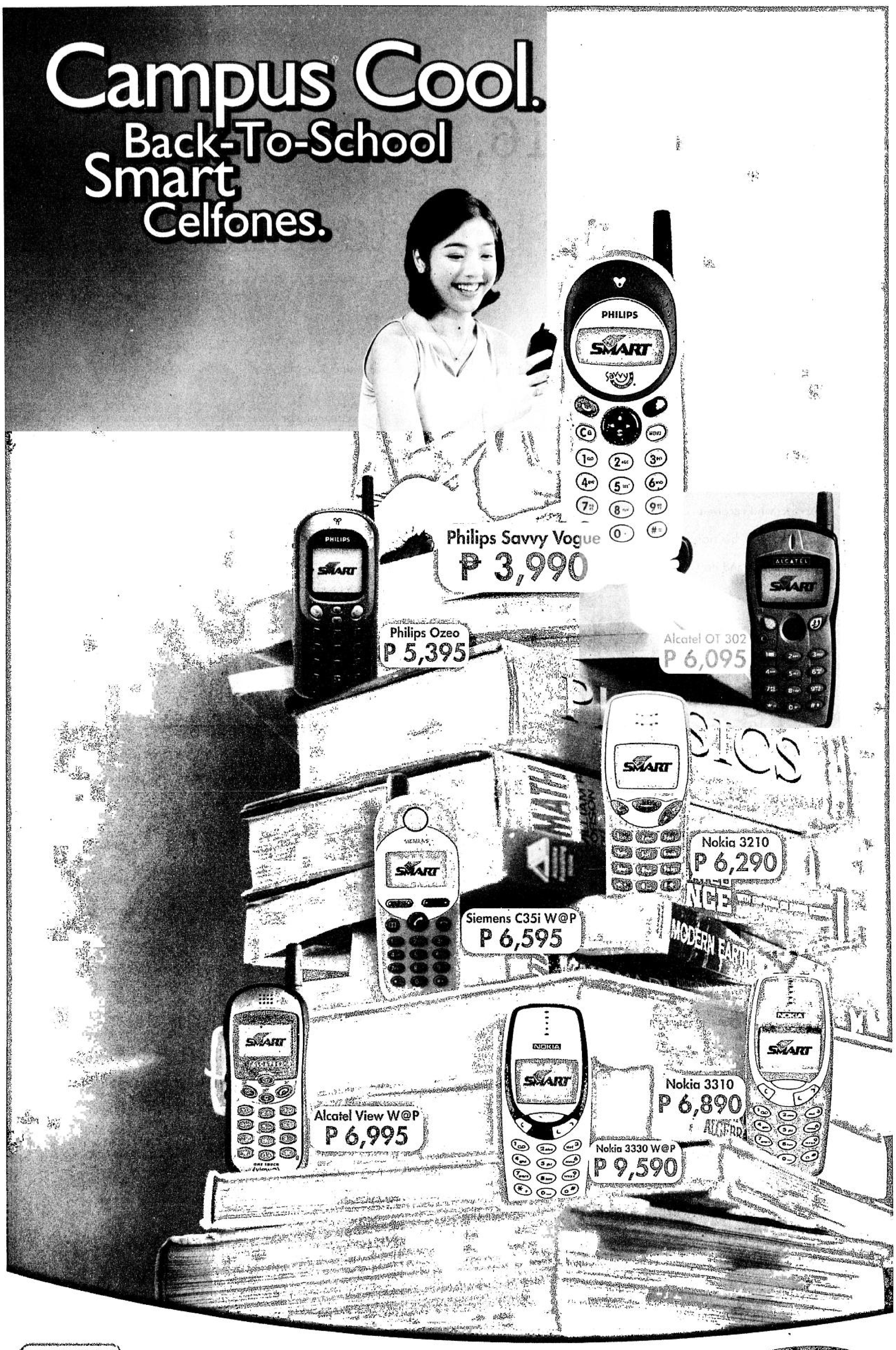
4 pm at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City.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Money shop heist: 1 dead A20

'Set our fathers free' A21

WPD cop faces probe in QC slaughter of 5

GRANDMA'S DEAD, mourn the grandchildren of Ma. Luisa Untalan, one of the five people killed in the alleged jueteng row in Novaliches, Quezon City.
ERIK ARAZAS

By Philip C. Tubeza

CENTRAL Police District (CPD) investigators are set to invite a high-ranking Manila policeman to shed light on the Tuesday night killing of five *jueteng* bet collectors, including a woman, during an alleged gambling operator's birthday party in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Investigators, however, are still waiting for three witnesses to make their sworn statements before they invite Chief Insp. Alex Navarete of the Western Police District Station I for questioning not just on the killings but also on his presence in the party.

CPD agents are hunting down three suspects in the slaughter during the birthday party of alleged gambling operator Armand Sy in an alley beside his house on Interior I, J. Abad Santos Street, Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza,

WPD/ A20

Tinga proclaimed at last
Page A21

Wazzzzup?

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DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant [illegible]	PINOY TUBO	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.3333
KAMPO 2086 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	AEGIS FIGURE 8/NOVIA	PAROKYA NI EDGAR JUNE 15/373.7181
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HONDA

Lacuna kin shot down in Ermita

By Jerome Aning

OFFENDING stares reportedly triggered a quarrel in a music bar in Ermita, Manila that cost the life of a distant uncle and security aide of Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna before dawn yesterday.

Benjamin Lacuna, 52, of 25 Interior Kagitingan Street, Muzon, Malabon City, died in a hail of gunfire in front of the Hugs Music Lounge & Restaurant on A. Mabini Street about 12:15 a.m.

Lacuna's companions, guest relations officers Elvira Bulawan, 20, and Raquel Bongosia, 28, were also hit when five suspects opened fire on Lacuna.

Witnesses told police that one of the suspects was a caretaker of the nearby Gold Star Moneychanger shop identified only as Jojo.

Witnesses described him as between 32 and 35 years old, slim, and about 5-foot-6 tall. A second gunman was about 45 years old, round-faced, sporting short hair, and clad in a white shirt and jeans.

Police are looking into the possibility that Jojo became jealous of Lacuna and one of the GROs.

The suspects were the first to arrive at the bar, followed by Lacuna. Jojo and the other suspects came close to exchanging blows with Lacuna inside the bar after they exchanged "bad stares," said PO3 Joselito de Ocampo, case investigator.

After midnight, Lacuna got into his car with the two women but as they were about to leave, Jojo appeared and placed a foot on the car's front bumper, De Ocampo said.

Jojo reportedly refused to budge, prompting the angry Lacuna to step out of the vehicle and confront the suspects. Shots rang out and Lacuna fell while the wounded GROs screamed for help, police said.

The suspects fled after the shooting while the women were taken to the Ospital ng Maynila.

1 dead in money shop heist

By Jerome Aning

A SECURITY guard single-handedly fought off four robbers and killed one of them when they hit a handicraft and moneychanger store in Ermita, Manila yesterday morning.

Police said the four men burst into the Geslani Handicraft and Moneychanger on 513 Pedro Gil St. at 12:45 p.m. and poked .38- and .45-caliber handguns at shop owner Manny Geslani and the two cashiers.

But unknown to the suspects, one of the cashiers, Mila Romero, was able to press a concealed buzzer that alerted the guard, Miguel Acupan Jr., 36, who was posted at the south gate of the MBT Building where the store is located.

In an interview, Geslani said he tried to delay the suspects by begging them repeatedly not to shoot and ordering the cashiers to take out the money. He said he was even able to hold the gun of one of the suspects and tried to point it away from the other victims.

Romero said she and the other cashier took P700,000 of the store's earnings, stuffed them inside their clothes and fled through a backdoor.

Acupan arrived and the suspects, realizing they had been tricked, tried to escape through another backdoor which leads to the building's east gate.

But the guard took another path, cut off the path of the suspects and engaged them in a gunfight.

During the exchange, one of the suspects was shot in the left chest and died on the spot. Employee Alexander Masahoy, 44, who was manning a photocopying machine in the hall, was also hit twice and later taken to the Ospital ng Maynila.

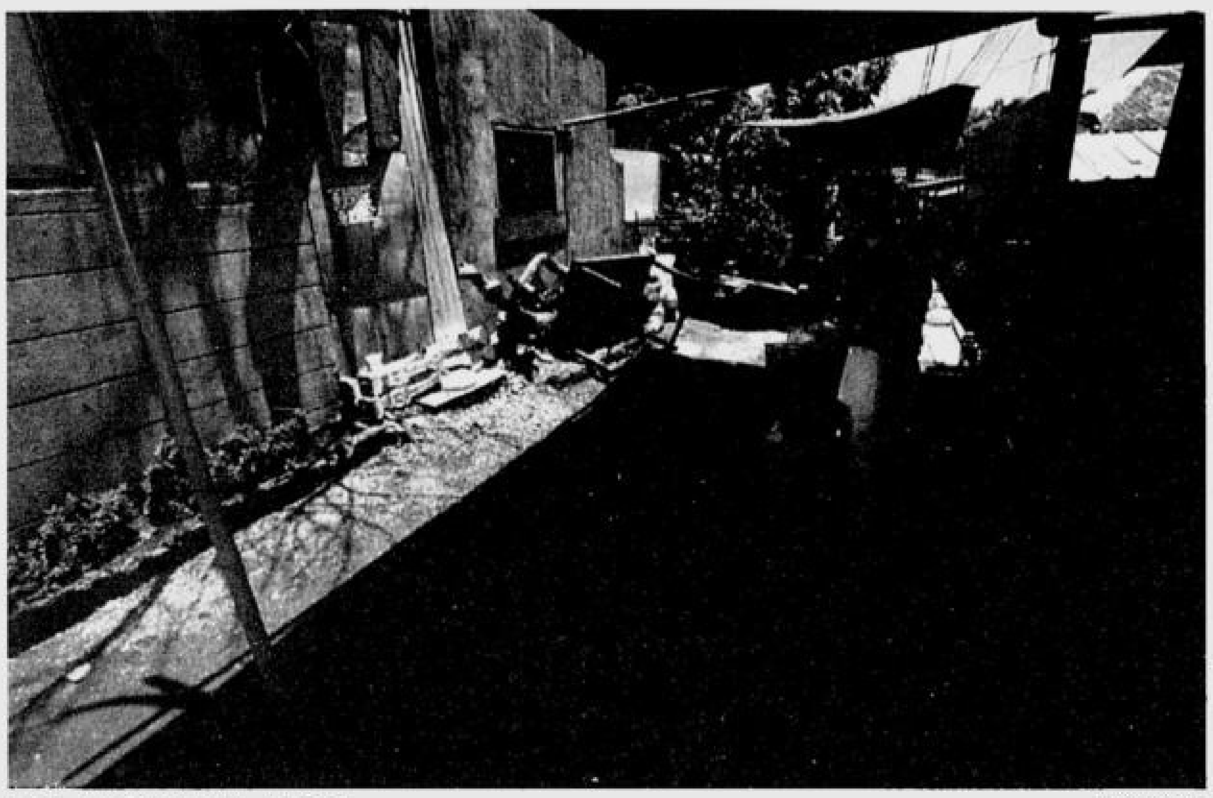
The suspects then took the Pedro Gil exit.

Nicanor Baring, 44, a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority traffic enforcer, caught one of the suspects who was later identified as Gil Tarape, 25, a native of Camarines Norte and resident of Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

SPO3 Steve Casimiro, case investigator, said the dead suspect was wearing a blue polo shirt, denim pants and rubber slippers and had a short haircut.

The suspect's body was taken to the Tres Amigos Funeral Homes in Paco.

Police are looking for the other suspects whom the arrested Tarape identified as Ronald Banez of Sapang Palay, and a certain "Randy."



THE MORNING AFTER

ERIK ARAZAS

Residents immediately cleaned up the site of the massacre.

WPD cop faces probe in slaughter ...(From page A19)

CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit-homicide section chief.

Jaraza refused to identify the suspects. They allegedly left a jeep (DLF-980) and a maroon Toyota Corolla (NSK-691) in their hurry to escape.

Jaraza identified the victims as Maria Luisa M. Untalan, 47; Eufemio Barcelona Jr., 56; Virgilio F. Santiago, 52; Lauro Job Adolfo, 56; all of Novaliches; and Rudy Fuentes, 57; of Bago Bantay, Quezon City.

Besides several gunshot wounds, the victims were also allegedly stabbed "to make sure they were dead," investigators said.

"The victims were known kabos (bet collectors) but we are still trying to find out if their deaths were related to illegal gambling," Jaraza said.

The five victims were drinking when they allegedly got into an argument with other party guests around 8 p.m. Tuesday, investigators said.

The argument worsened until the suspects drew their guns and shot the kabos.

The suspects allegedly also stabbed them to make sure they were dead.

While police maintained that the cause of the argument was still uncertain, sources said that it might have something to do with a row over jueteng payola.

Pregnant woman stabbed in break-in

By Jerome Aning

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman who was eight months pregnant was stabbed dead by an unidentified man who broke into her house in Tondo, Manila early Tuesday evening.

Joy Valuenzuela was found dead in her rented room at Unit 82-B6 of the National Housing Authority's tenement site in Vitas, Tondo at around 7 p.m. Tuesday, SPO1 Ed Cabal of the city police's homicide section said.

Police have no suspect yet. They established that Valuenzela was home alone when the intruder came.

Residents who heard Valenzuela's screams for help went to her room and found her bleeding from several stab wounds.

Valenzuela's live-in husband, Floresto Flores Jr., said he was out of the house when the break-in happened. He said the room had been ransacked but he could not tell at once if any money or valuable was taken.

Waitress raped in jeepney

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE on Tuesday arrested one of two suspected drug addicts in Caloocan City for allegedly robbing and raping a 21-year-old waitress whom they had been lewdly eyeing for some time.

Caloocan Precinct 15 police arrested Jupiter Torres, 21, at his house on Dahlia Street in Sitio Gitna, Barangay Caybiga, Caloocan. A rented VCD of the controversial sex movie "Toro," which the suspect allegedly left at the crime scene, led to his capture, police said.

Torres and Dennis Godinez, 21, of Villa Angelica Subdivision in Sitio Gitna, were reportedly still in their underwear when they fled to escape the wrath of the victim's father and neighbors who rushed to her rescue.

Godinez went into hiding, police said.

Torres and Godinez, both known drug addicts in their area, are facing charges of rape and robbery before the city prosecutor's office.

On Sunday, the waitress was on her way home about 11:30 p.m. when she noticed the two men trailing her from the moment she alighted from a tricycle, police said.

In a dark part of Sitio Gitna, one of the men suddenly covered her face with his hand and he and his companion began robbing her, police said.

Thinking Torres and Godinez would leave after taking her money, the waitress pretended to be unconscious. But they dragged her into a passenger jeepney parked nearby and took turns in raping her, police said.

When she heard her father looking for her, she began to shout for help.

Torres and Godinez in their underwear fled just as the woman's father and several neighbors spotted them, police said.

Recovered in the jeepney were Godinez's shirt, iron knuckles, a pair of slippers, and the "Toro" VCD. The VCD's rental slip showed Godinez as the borrower, police said.

The victim told police at the Women's and Children's Concern Desk that she knew the suspects since they always stared lewdly at her whenever she passed them by on her way home.

Torres and Godinez would tease her by licking their lips whenever she passed by, the victim said.

Torres is detained at the Caloocan city jail.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 14, 2001
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 3:15-4:1, 3-6
Gospel: Mt 5:20-26

Jesus said to the crowds, "I tell you, then, that if you are not righteous in a much broader way than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

You have heard that it was said to our people in the past: *Do not commit murder; anyone who does kill will have to face trial*. But now I tell you: whoever gets angry with a brother or sister will have to face trial. Whoever insults a brother or sister deserves to be brought before the council; whoever humiliates a brother or sister deserves to be thrown into the fire of hell. So, if you are about to offer your gift at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with him, and then come back and offer your gift to God.

Don't forget this: be reconciled with your opponent quickly when you are together on the way to court. Otherwise he will turn you over to the judge, who will hand you over to the police, who will put you in jail. There you will stay, until you have paid the last penny."

Commentary:

Today's gospel reading zooms in on the right interpretation of righteousness and its bearing on human growth to full maturity. Righteousness must first of all respect God's sovereignty. Jesus blames the scribes and the Pharisees, the official interpreters of the law, for a defective interpretation of righteousness. In spite of their good intentions they interfere with God's sovereignty to such an extent that they make it impossible for themselves and others to enter the kingdom of God. Righteousness, correctly understood, is the art of being open to the all-encompassing goodness of God in one's own life, and to share this goodness graciously and generously with others.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the wonder of life. Free us from all fear that we may joyfully accept your divine guidance on our way to fullness of life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOUNCING CHECKS LAW)—Act of issuing a worthless check is punishable—The gravamen of the offense punished by B.P. 22 is the act of making and issuing a worthless check or a check that is dishonored upon its presentation for payment. It is not the non-payment of an obligation which the law punishes. The law is not intended or designed to coerce a debtor to pay his debt. The thrust of the law is to prohibit, under pain of penal sanctions, the making of worthless checks and putting them in circulation. The law invariably declares the mere act of issuing a worthless check as *malum prohibitum*. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Ong v. People, G.R. No. 139006, November 27, 2000]

Digest by R. B. Vera

Wanted: New witnesses in cop's killing

By Christian V. Esguerra

VALENZUELA police are looking for new witnesses who could identify the killers of deputy police chief Supt. Eugenio Casalme and testify against them.

Casalme was shot dead during a bus robbery at the North Luzon Expressway on May 23.

More than 50 passengers on board a Pampanga-bound Aladin Transit bus saw Casalme's killing, but only three of them volunteered to identify the three gunmen.

Valenzuela police chief Supt. Nemesio Neron had said he and his men had identified the gunmen.

But a police source said that police could not arrest the suspects after the witnesses refused to cooperate.

The witnesses had identified two of the suspects in a police lineup, the source said.

But the witnesses, who are residents of Pampanga and Bataan, have reportedly gone into hiding, fearing that the suspects would go after them.

Superintendent Neron said the killers were involved in many criminal activities including a series of robberies at the expressway.

Police said one of the suspects is said to be a former member of the Pampanga police.

Three men armed with a grenade, a .45 pistol, and a fan knife robbed the passengers of the Aladin bus about 8 p.m. on May 23.

One of the passengers was Casalme, who was on his way home to San Fernando, Pampanga.

The robbers shot Casalme in the chest and in the back of the head during the robbery.

Investigation showed that Casalme had given the robbers his money, but they killed him anyway.

The robbers alighted from the bus at the San Simon exit of the expressway in Pampanga.

US to intervene in Basilan?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF IT'S true that the Abu Sayyaf bandits have beheaded one of their American hostages, that's the end of the road for them.

They have forced the Americans to intervene. And those bandits will regret their savage act.

Informed sources say US commandos are now in the Philippines and are just waiting for the go-signal from the Philippine government.

***

The commandos belong to the Delta Force, a secret unit within the US Army which deals with taking retaliatory actions against terrorists who victimize American citizens in foreign lands.

The American commandos, my sources say, are now coordinating with the Philippine military. Even if they don't know the terrain in Basilan, they have the benefit of modern technology to track down the elusive bandits. The bandits' movements have been recorded by US satellites.

Go get them, Yanks!

***

Ultra-nationalists won't like the US intervention, but the rest of us Filipinos will have to face realities: We need outside help to erase those savages from the face of the earth.

We have to face the fact that if our government relies on the inept military, the government will never be able to lick the Abu Sayyaf problem. The bandit group has been running circles around the military.

Let's swallow our pride and accept America's offer of help. And then let's ask the US to train our commandos to deal with terrorists.

***

And then, let's ask the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) how to deal with non-Muslim kidnappers in Metro Manila and other places. *Lubusin ang paghingi ng tulong sa mga Kano*.

It seems the Philippine National Police (PNP) is hard put going after kidnap-for-ransom syndicates in Metro Manila.

Ethnic Chinese are no longer the victims of these kidnappers. Singaporean Chinese expatriates have become the latest victims of kidnapping for ransom in Metro Manila.

False pride on the part of our law enforcers will not help solve the kidnappings in the country.

***

When a high official is out of power he loses his friends or those who professed their friendship when he was still among the high and mighty. Government officials enjoying the adulation of friends and subordinates should take note of this.

Retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, chief of the defunct Philippine Constabulary and Integrated National Police (PC-INP), noted that when he was still in power nobody could beat him in a round of golf when he was playing with friends and subordinates.

"When I retired, everybody beat me in golf," he said good-naturedly.

***

Deposed President Erap has found that he has very few friends especially now that he's in jail.

Some of his friends have even turned against him, agreeing to be prosecution witnesses in the plunder cases against him.

But the unkindest cut of all came from a *Chinoy* whom Erap gave so many concessions when he was still in power.

***

This *Chinoy* allegedly got back from Erap's supposed favorite mistress a BMW car he gave her.

The *Chinoy* gave the expensive car to the woman to please Erap. He even bragged to the woman's co-employees at Philippine Airlines that it was he who gave the car and showed them a receipt for the car's purchase.

The car that was taken back is now being driven by one of the *Chinoy*'s children.

***

Car thefts are rampant at the South Triangle in Quezon City, but police don't seem to be alarmed.

The favorite area of car thieves is outside the ABS-CBN complex. Several ABS-CBN employees, talents and executives have lost their cars to the thieves.

A recent victim was the Inquirer's former lifestyle editorial assistant Arlene Lazaro, who now works for the radio-TV network. She lost a brand-new Honda Civic less than a month ago.

***

Another victim was Manila Bulletin reporter Ronniel de Guzman, whose gray Toyota Corolla XE, was taken last Saturday night outside the ABS-CBN complex.

When De Guzman reported the theft to the nearby police station, he was told car thefts were common in the area.

A police officer who took De Guzman's complaint, a certain Inspector Sawi, told him the station didn't have enough men to patrol the area.

The police officer said no one in the station worked in the night shift when car thefts take place in the area.

Should we also ask the FBI to solve our carnap problem?

Woman dope peddler falls in Las Piñas

By Nelson F. Flores

POLICE arrested a suspected illegal drug peddler and seized more than a kilo of dried marijuana leaves during a buy-bust operation in Las Piñas City early yesterday morning.

Adela Quijano, 59, of Gladiola Street, T.S. Cruz, Almanza Dos, Las Piñas City, was arrested by PO3 Joselberto Canon, a member of the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Las Piñas police force, who posed as a drug buyer.

Aside from the dried marijuana leaves, Canon also seized two marked P100 peso bills used during the buy-bust operation.

Investigators said Quijano, who is popularly known as *Nanay* Delia and as a drug peddler, was arrested shortly after 1 a.m. near her house.

Canon said he posed as a drug buyer and asked Quijano for dried marijuana leaves worth P200. He said that after she gave him the marijuana leaves, he arrested her.

Quijano did not resist arrest but added that she sold drugs to support the schooling of her grandchildren. She said her own children are jobless.

But DEU agents said Quijano was notorious and had been selling drugs for quite sometime. In fact, her name is already on the list of most wanted drug pushers in Las Piñas City, they said.

Canon said Quijano would be charged with violation of Sec. 8 of Republic Act No. 6425 (Dangerous Drugs Act of the Philippines) before the Las Piñas prosecutor's office.

Quijano is detained at the Las Piñas City police station detention cell.

Ex-guard mobbed for stabbing driver

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER hospital security guard Rommel Villaestra, 23, was nearly killed by a mob that caught him after he allegedly robbed and stabbed dead the driver of an R & E taxi in Quezon City on Tuesday night.

Villaestra was arrested after the beating for killing driver Lucrecio S. Lubiano, 36, of Camarin, Caloocan City, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez.

Lubiano died from two stab wounds in the body, Fernandez added.

He said Villaestra boarded Lubiano's taxi and asked to be driven to Quezon City. But about 9:45 p.m. on Road 18 in Barangay Bahay Toro in Quezon City, Villaestra brought out a fan knife and announced the holdup, the investigator said.

Villaestra ordered the driver to surrender his earnings. Lubiano refused and tried to fight him off.

Angered, Villaestra stabbed Lubiano before taking his money, Fernandez said.

Bystanders noticed the commotion inside the taxi, which had stopped on the roadside. When Villaestra got out of the cab, the bystanders ran after him.

The mob beat up Villaestra until cooler heads intervened. Both Villaestra and his victim were brought to the Quezon City General Hospital.

Doctors were not able to save Lubiano, who died about 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

Fernandez said the suspect was put under police guard at the hospital while the victim's cadaver was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Edsa smoke belching worsens

By Abigail L. Ho

APPREHENSIONS for smoke belching along Edsa have more than doubled from April to May since the return of Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) anti-smoke belching units two months ago, according to the Land Transportation Office.

In April, a total of 895 vehicles were apprehended, 60 percent of which were public utility buses, the LTO said. Last month, this number rose 106 percent to 1,849 apprehensions with buses still topping the list.

The LTO, however, said it lacks the manpower and the funds to conduct vehicle emission testing before registering these buses and other vehicles.

"We don't have enough personnel to conduct all the tests," LTO chief Edgardo Abenina said. "We are an administrative and regulatory body only. The DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) is the one tasked to accredit emission testing centers."

Before a vehicle can be registered or have its registration renewed, it has to first pass a vehicle emission test. If it fails, it will not be registered.

"Since the LTO has to process so many registration applications every year, it cannot really keep track of all the smoke belchers," said Rogelio Uranza of the MMDA. "The system has to be improved. Privatization (of emission testing centers) is an option."

Abenina admitted that LTO-registered vehicles account for about 75 percent of total air pollution in the metropolis.

"That's why we are appealing to civic groups and NGOs (non-government organizations) to help us," he said. "But the DTI also has to do its share."

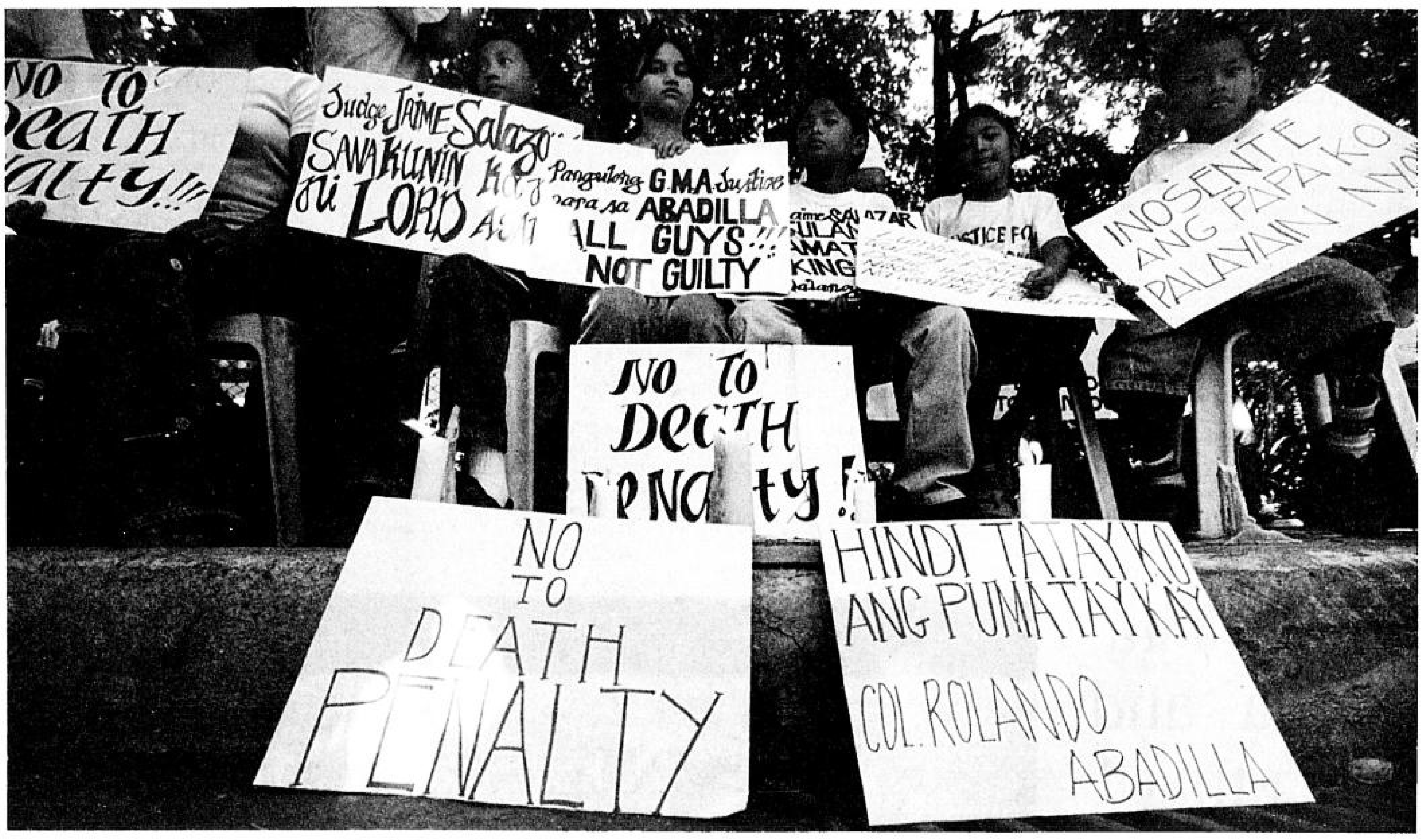
Assistant Trade and Industry Secretary Adrian Cristobal said the department is not exactly sleeping on its job.

"We are currently working with the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) on the vehicle emission testing center guidelines," Cristobal said. "We want to simplify these further to make it more convenient and affordable."

He said this will help the LTO a lot since not all vehicles needing registration or renewal have to undergo emission testing at the LTO, "but motorists can just go to the accredited testing center nearest them. When they get their certification, they can immediately have their vehicles registered."

The MMDA recently purchased smoke belching detection equipment for distribution to the 17 local government units of the metropolis. Thus, vehicle emission testing is expected to be more efficient now.

"Tests before were mechanical, but now we already have computerized equipment," Uranza said.


NO TO DEATH PENALTY!!!
Judge JAIME Salazar SANA KUNIN KA NI LORD
Pangulong GMA Justice para sa ABADILLA
ALL GUYS!!! NOT GUILTY
INOSENTE ANG PAPA KO PALAYAIN NYO
NO TO DEATH PENALTY!
NO TO DEATH PENALTY
HINDI TATAY KO ANG PUMATAY KAY COL. ROLANDO ABADILLA

CHILDREN of suspects in the Abadilla killing hold a picket and fasting protest outside the Department of Justice building.

JESS YUSON

'Set our fathers free'

"RUNNNING" priest Roberto P. Reyes yesterday asked the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice to take a closer look into the case of five men convicted for the killing of former head of the PC-Metrocom Col. Rolando Abadilla in an ambush in Quezon City in 1996.

The five have also been sentenced to death by lethal injection.

The priest made his call even as children of the convicts started to fast and to picket the Department of Justice in Manila.

Convicted for Abadilla's killing in January 2000 were SPO2 Cesar Fortuna, Keonardo Mumanog, Rameses de Jesus, Joel de Jesus and Augusto Santos.

The conviction came even after members of the communist hit squad the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) claimed responsibility for the killing about one week after the ambush.

In a statement sent by fax to the Inquirer, Reyes urged the high court and the DOJ to look into the petition for certiorari filed on March 15 last year.

The petition questioned the "grave abuse of discretion of Regional Trial Court Judge Jaime Salazar" after he declared a new piece of evidence submitted in court as "inadmissible" as it "came too late."

Reyes was referring to a watch, which Abadilla was supposedly wearing at the time of the ambush. He said that a member of the ABB had given to him the watch as proof that it was the communist hit squad who was responsible for the killing.

Reyes also pointed out that the arrest and subsequent conviction of the suspects was based only on the testimony of security guard Freddie Alejo who claimed to have witnessed the ambush-slay of Abadilla. He said that another security guard Merlito Herbas testified that the five were not the ones who killed Abadilla.

The priest, who is the chaplain of the University of the Philippines, said that Judge Salazar never gave "weight and value" to the ABB's claim that they were responsible for the killing.

"The ABB was compelled to seek my help because of their moral responsibility to the truth and the people. The five men convicted and sentenced to die are innocent. They would not allow another miscarriage of justice to take place by allowing one court and one judge's decision to hold sway even against the truth," Reyes said in the statement.

He recalled that Judge Salazar had dismissed "my testimony and urged me to tell the ABB (that) if they are really responsible for Colonel Abadilla's murder they should talk to the judge directly at a place designated by them."

Reyes quoted Judge Salazar as saying, partly in jest, "I will go even to the mountains, if they wish. The only problem is the danger I may expose myself to when I need to urinate. The 'nuno' may play tricks on me and something might happen to my . . ."

Reyes claimed that the judge continued to put down his testimony and even referred to the Catholic Church's bigotry during the Inquisition.

Reyes said the judge ruled that his testimony was hearsay since he was not a party to the crime.

The priest said that the convicted killers would have been given a last chance to prove their innocence had Judge Salazar ruled otherwise.

Tinga proclaimed at last

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TAGUIG mayor-elect Freddie Tinga was finally proclaimed last night by the Commission on Elections in Manila, ending a leadership crisis that paralyzed public services in the town the past two weeks.

Tinga, 36, son of former Rep. Dante Tinga, immediately offered the hand of peace to defeated mayor Ricardo Papa who until yesterday was contesting the results of the elections.

The final tally at the end of the two-day audit of the 1,067 election returns contested by Papa showed Tinga winning by 5,320 votes. He got 63,114 votes against Papa's 57,794.

"I am appealing to outgoing Mayor Ricardo Papa and his supporters to look at public service and set aside politics," Tinga said.

"It's time to heal the wounds," he said.

Papa was proclaimed at 6:30 p.m. along with reelected vice mayor Loida Labao-Aleona and the 12 councilors after the Taguig board of canvassers ruled to dismiss Papa's protest questioning almost all the election returns.

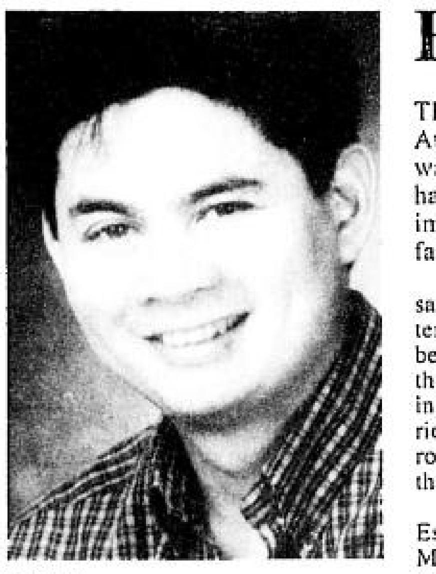
Papa had 1,068 of the 1,073 election returns on the ground that the envelopes containing them had no inner seal and lacked signatures of Comelec officials. They also protested the counting of votes for former Rep. Dante Tinga in favor of his son Freddie.

The board of canvassers headed by lawyer Wanda Talosig, however, ruled that the grounds raised by Papa were "not proper grounds for pre-proclamation controversy."

"The BOC is not the proper forum before which the said grievances could be raised," the BOC ruling said.

Talosig said Papa's lawyers have filed an intent to appeal the ruling. She said the defeated mayor may also file an election protest with the regular courts.

The 12 winning municipal councilors proclaimed yesterday were: District I, Allan Cruz, Delio Santos, Elpidio Javier, Arnel Cerafica, Gamaliel San Pedro, and Roberto Dionisio; District II, Milagros Valencia, Arvin Ian Alit, Henry Duenas Jr., Marisse Balina-Eron, Noel Dizon, and Carlos Catacio.



TINGA

MJ backers push for murder raps vs Ocampos

By Jerome Aning

FOUR supporters of incoming Manila sixth district Rep. Mark Jimenez yesterday asked the city prosecutor's office to upgrade to murder and serious illegal detention the physical injury cases they filed last month against two brothers of outgoing Rep. Rosenda "Sandy" Ocampo.

The Jimenez supporters claimed they were beaten up by Ocampo's supporters and one of them was forcibly detained by the congresswoman's brothers Bambi and Jeff inside the Ocampo family's residential compound on Lamayan Street in Sta. Ana on May 6.

Jimenez and Ocampo's father Pablo were bitter rivals in the May 14 congressional race in the district, which traditionally has been Ocampo's turf. Jimenez, who is facing extradition to the United States for illegal campaign contributions, won by a few hundred votes over Pablo.

Pablo filed a motion before the Commission on Elections seeking to disqualify Jimenez. The Ocampo camp also accused Jimenez of massive cheating and bribery in the May 14 elections.

The motion of three of the complainants—Norman David, 39, Herman Bernardo, 27, and August Puzon, 18—was filed by their lawyer Antonio Bautista before the office of assistant city prosecutor Honoria Sison-Aquino.

They and the fourth complainant, Carmelo Alfaro, 31, said they were putting up Jimenez's campaign posters along Old Panaderos Street in Sta. Ana sometime past midnight when the light's suddenly went out.

They claimed that three vehicles, including a Mercedes Benz, arrived and several armed men alighted and surrounded them. They said the men clubbed, punched and kicked them.

They said they recognized two of the men as Ocampo's brothers.

"We were able to recognize two of them because they (Bambi and Jeff) were the ones who led those who attacked us," the complainants said.

David's 15-year-old stepson, who was present during the alleged beating up, said David tried to reason with their attackers but the armed men shoved him into the Mercedes Benz and brought him to the nearby Ocampo residence.

David alleged that the Ocampo brothers further beat him up and threatened him with weapons that included lead pipes and a chain saw.

At presstime, the publicist of the Ocampos has yet to respond to the INQUIRER request for comment on the case.

Police academy opens 'killhouse'

By Michael Lim Ubac

A "KILLHOUSE" for the Abu Sayyaf.

This is what cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy had in mind when they conceived and funded a specialized training program and facility where they could learn the necessary skills to deal with terrorists.

The PNPA's top brass led by Superintendent Dionisio B. Coloma Jr. on Tuesday formally opened "Killhouse," the academy's newest facility where police cadets can hone their military assault skills.

About a thousand upperclassmen of the academy have enrolled in the program.

Richard Perlado, a planning officer with the academy's Research and Extension Services Division, told the INQUIRER that it was the cadets themselves who conceived and funded Killhouse, in response to the Abu Sayyaf menace which has again plunged the country in another crisis.

Cadets admitted the facility was so named after the program's main thrust—to eliminate the enemy or, in military parlance, stop the enemy dead on its tracks.

Cadets said they needed a facility that would train them to deal with any crisis situation and so they came up with Killhouse.

They pointed out that the program was at the top of their lessons on military tactics.

They said the counter-terrorism skills they would learn at Killhouse would come in handy if President Macapagal-Arroyo called on the police to deal with the Abu Sayyaf in the jungles of Mindanao.

The facility—also dubbed "assault house"—is equipped with a shooting range and several rooms where cadets can learn police tactics or close-quarter battle (CQB).

Perlado said the facility's formal opening was one of the highlights of the academy's observance of the country's Independence Day and the 23rd PNPA Foundation Day.

"(The cadets) recognized that times have changed," Perlado said. "Aside from maintaining peace and order in their communities, police officers like them should also be prepared for military assaults against terrorists and bandits."

Perlado said the program centered on CQB because commando-type assaults are sometimes called for in certain situations.

He stressed the cadets' marksmanship is sharpened so they can effectively use both handguns and long arms.

They will also be trained in jungle or open combat techniques, as well as rescuing captives under any condition, according to Perlado.

Flood alert

THE Metro Manila Development Authority has identified nine waterways in Manila as flood-prone and has urged the city government to immediately relocate some 5,000 families living in those parts.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said that aside from clogging the waterways, the families are in danger of being hurt or killed, especially now that the rainy season is about to set in. He said these waterways are notorious in wrecking havoc on their surroundings whenever they overflow their banks.

Abalos identified the waterways as Estero de Valencia, Estero de San Miguel, Estero de Aviles, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de San Lazaro, Estero dela Reina, Estero de Kabulusan, North and South Antipolo, and Estero de Paco.

About 5,000 poor families or about 25,000 people are living along the banks of these waterways, according to the MMDA.

Abalos noted that the operation of all flood control infrastructure has been turned over to the MMDA.

He said the families that would be relocated from the banks of the waterways would be transferred to decent residential communities in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

Abalos said waterways in other parts of Metro Manila would also be cleaned as soon as possible. *Nelson F. Flores*

Lost receipts

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. is alerting customers that its Roosevelt, Quezon City branch office lost seven books of unpaid original water receipts worth about P400,000 in collectibles for March, April and May.

The receipts are believed to have been stolen.

The missing water bills under Batch No. 221-05-9170 cover customers along Linao in La Loma; Batch No. 105-05-8760, Mayon, La Loma; Batch No. 336-22-4480, Quirino Highway, Baesa; Batch No. 107-05-8780, Hernani, Retiro, Kanlaon and Mayon; Batch No. 70-07-8320, Samson Road, Kaingin, Sampaguita and Balintawak; and Batch NO. 97005-8680, Calavite, Halcon, Baco and La Loma, all in Quezon City.

Customers are advised to pay their March, April and May 2001 unpaid bills at the L & M Building on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, or to pay only to authorized Maynilad representatives with valid ID and to sanctioned bank payment outlets.

Residents may call the Maynilad hotline 1626 or 413-8555, 56 or 59.

Assunta preserves a 'bold' tradition

By Remy M. Umerez

ONE of the fastest ways to achieve stardom is via the bold route. Ask the likes of Ara Mina, whose movie career was heading nowhere until they shifted image and shed their clothes. Now the likes of Ara are enjoying the popularity they have has never known before.

In 2001, Assunta de Rossi, 18, decided it is her turn to wear Mother Lily's "Magic *Kamison,*" the legendary black chemise that made sexy stars of the then-nubile Alma Moreno, Ruffa Gutierrez, Snooky Serna, Dina Bonnevie and others. It is her turn to wear it, and then immediately remove it.

But isn't Assunta's decision a bit late, considering the current clampdown on sex movies and the hard time that the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board is giving producers?

Assunta's manager Manny Valera begs to disagree. "Whatever strict measures they impose, the moviegoing public will still welcome the sight of a fresh young body," he says. "There will always be nudity on the screen regardless of who is fighting for morality.

"In Assunta's case, I consider her bold moves as justified exposure," Manny adds with his perpetual smile.

He is referring to breast exposure scenes that Assunta did in "Red Diaries," a trilogy from Regal Entertainment.

Unlike Rica Peralejo, who also jumped on the bold bandwagon and who claims that her mother is always close by whenever she does "delicate" scenes, Manny has better things to do than watch Assunta undress.

"It is not necessary because Maryo J (de los Reyes) is a most trusted director," he says. "My working experiences with him are all pleasant. And furthermore, he is a friend. I told him right away what my talent is incapable of doing. Under no circumstances will she agree to do fontal nudity and definitely a big no-no is allowing her breasts to be mashed. Have you seen any of Rosanna Roces's movies where she allowed her bosom to be touched? We are keeping that tradition."

On screen only

Manny failed to foresee, however, the leakage of the sexy stills showing a half-naked Assunta which landed on the front pages of tabloids. Assunta had declared verbally that she preferred such exposure to be seen only on the screen. Next time, she should insist that it be stipulated in the contract.

In the first story of "Red Diaries," Assunta plays the mistress of Anton Bernardo. The second story has a seminarian, played by Jam Melendrez, falling in love with a balikbayan, Assunta. The final story has Assunta playing the battered wife of Carlos Morales.

The third episode proved to be the boldest and most difficult for Assunta. She is not only raped by Carlos, she is also gang-raped. The price she has to pay for a crack at stardom.

GMA 7 is exploiting the advance publicity that "Red Diaries" is creating for Assunta. The TV network is supplementing it by featuring Assunta in the drama anthology "Larawan" for the whole month of June.

In her four episodes on "Larawan," the Italian-born Assunta works again with Maryo J. de los Reyes, as well as with Joel Lamangan. "Larawan" airs every Wednesday.

The initial "Larawan" episode was "Limos ng Puso," directed by Lamangan. It is the story of a young woman who feels she can't do anything right in her father's eyes and who becomes obsessed with her sister's fiancé. Assunta was supported by Vina Morales, Gary Estrada and Jake Roxas.

Episode 2 was "Ambisyosa," directed by Maryo J, is about a barrio lass recruited to be a model, not on the fashion ramp but in a bar. She escapes and meets a rich old man who offers her a life of luxury.

Classic roles

The June 20 episode was also directed by Lamangan. Assunta's character, Elena Madlang-awa, is raped by the lover of her mother who even blames her for the assault. Elena uses her mom's lover to get even. Gina Alajar plays the mother and Carlos Morales the lover.

The final episode, also by Maryo J, is the story of a woman who is raped by three men. She puts justice in her own hands and kills

ASSUNTA/A24

RED HOT. Assunta de Rossi plays three characters in "Red Diaries."

The 'Tita Nena' and Aga that I know

DollyWood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

READERS have deluged me with e-mail asking what I feel about the controversies hounding **Aga Muhlach** and **Charlene Gonzales** who are both close to me.

Amalia Fuentes, the mom of **Liezl Martinez**, who's like a sister to me, is one of the main protagonists in the post-nuptial saga. **Pops Fernandez**, another good friend of mine in the biz, has been dragged into the mess as well.

Instead of answering every e-mail question, I think it would be better to write about my sentiments. In my own little way I hope that I can be a peacemaker.

I would rather not get into the nitty-gritty of the issue because by now I'm sure it's already coming out of your ears. Allow me instead to share with you some insights about *Tita* Nena and Aga. May it somehow make you look beneath the surface and understand them more.

'Tita' Nena

I'LL never forget the time Liezl and Albert eloped in the United States. Since Tita Nena knew that Liezl and I wrote each other frequently, she came to the house to cross-examine me. I was still in school and when I called home, the guard told me that Tita Nena had been waiting for me for hours.

I didn't want to betray Liezl's trust so I didn't go home until the guard told me that Tita Nena left already. You can just imagine how mad she was. She even told my mom, "*Ang mga anak natin talaga parang* choreographed *ang buhay. Magkasunod nanganak* (Our children's lives seem choreographed. They even gave birth one after the other). I gave birth in September and Liezl gave birth December of the same year. We are godmothers of each other's firstborn.

Albert had to endure what seemed to be the unendurable before he finally got the approval of Tita Nena to be Liezl's husband. It was so touching to hear her say during the church wedding of Albert and Liezl (I was one of the bridesmaids) that she didn't lose a daughter but she gained a son. Trite but heartwarming.

You just have to take Tita Nena as she is. She always has to speak her mind. She's one woman who cannot be contained nor constrained. The trouble is, people who don't know her well take her the wrong way. If she doesn't care much about someone, she would not even bother to talk about that person. When Tita Nena starts yakking about anyone that means that person matters.

It may seem trivial to others but once a chord is struck in her, she will go to great lengths to prove her point.

When all is said and done, she mellows. You just have to really listen to her and not just hear her out.

I've learned much in the course of my many conversations with Tita Nena. No matter what other people think about her, I will always hold her in high esteem. If only they could see her as I do, they would realize that her utbursts are merely *lambing* in disguise.

Aga

I REMEMBER when Liezl first introduced me to her cousin Aga. He was chubby and super *kulit*. We would often leave him on the dance floor when we went to discos because he refused to stop moving.

Even at a young age, he was already a headturner. (I got to meet some of his childhood sweethearts, all of them not from show biz).

He eventually became a big star but I'm glad that he is still within my reach as a friend. Even when we don't see each other often, I know that he looks out for me. Every time we bump into each other, he makes it a point to give me a "sermon." It's amazing how he can read my mind.

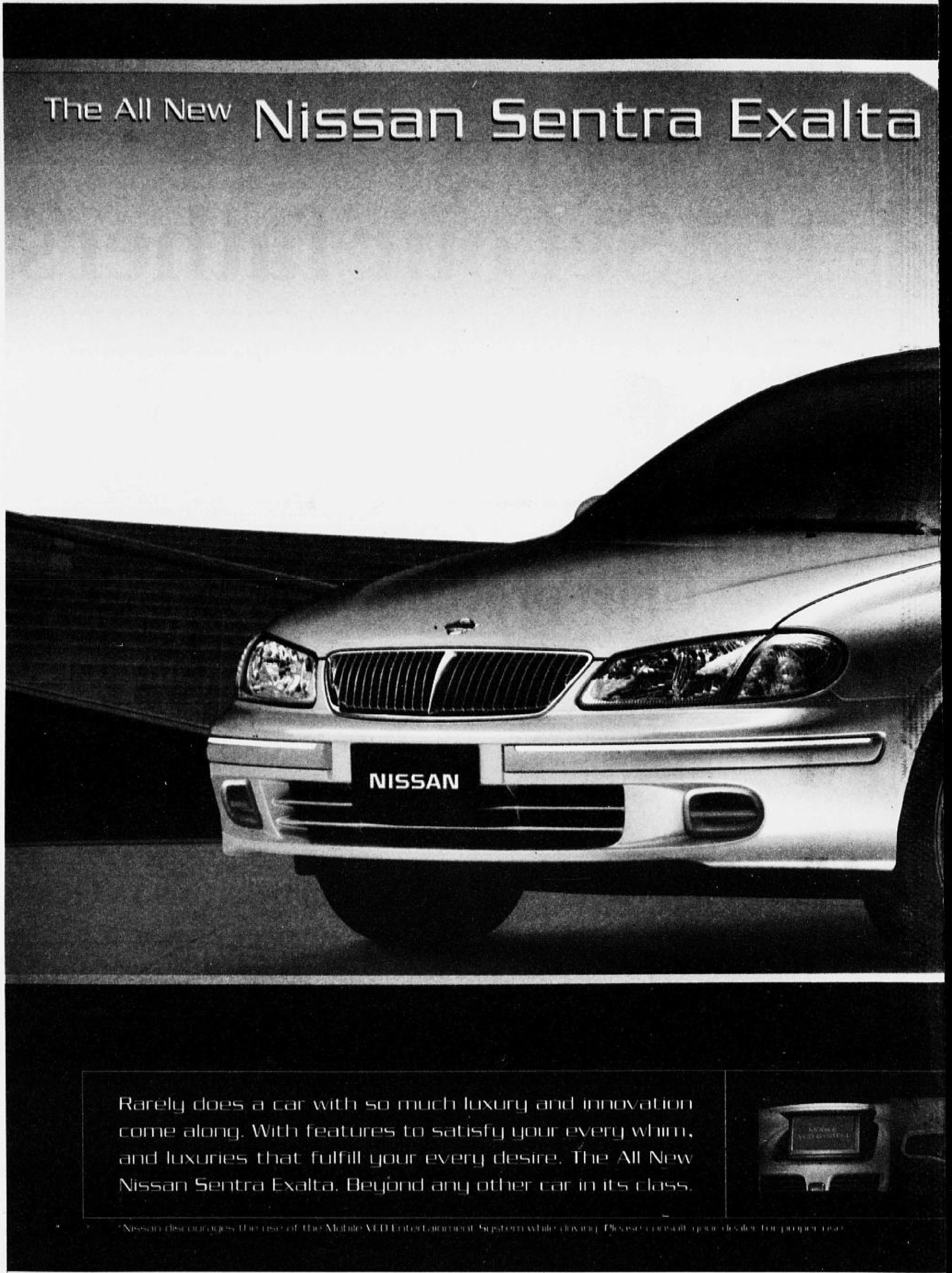
Like, once he cornered me and told me, "You're in love again! You've been praising no one in your column except ______. What did you see in him anyway? Why don't you write about me?"

I snapped back, "Leave me alone. I'm inspired."

Aga said, "And how long will this craziness last this time? I don't want to hear about you crying again."

I remember the time he reprimanded me when I got embroiled in the **Robin Padilla** scandal. "Stop

THE 'TITA/A24



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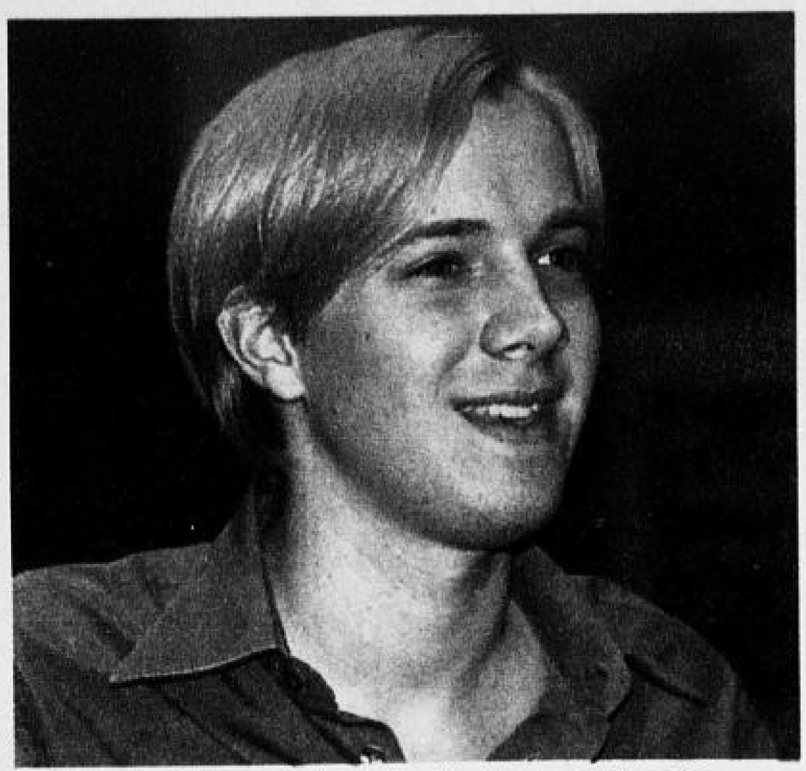
German singer woos Asia



'VOON-DER-LIK.' Chrjstian hopes he will not be a one-hit wonder.
ROMY HOMILLADA

BY LEAH SALTERIO

WHAT the Americans and the Irish can do, the Germans can do, too.

That's according to pop singer Christian Wunderlich (pronounced voon-der-lik), a young German who is slowly inching his way to international music stardom.

First there were the Scorpions. Then came teenage pop singer Gil. Now, here's Christian with the tongue-twister of a surname.

"I know it's difficult for a German to get international fame, but we can prove to the world that we can do it, too," Christian, 21, said during a recent Manila visit.

The performer crossed over to a singing career after making a name for himself as a soap opera star in Germany. He played challenging roles in the German TV series, "Verbotene Liebe (Forbidden Love)" and the current "Netshocker."

He also sings the "Netshocker" theme, "Family," which is included as a bonus track in his new album, "Reflections."

His debut single, "That's My Way to Say Goodbye," was released in Germany in 1998 and made it to the German singles charts, landing at No. 12. Other hit singles like "In Heaven," "So in Love" and his duet with Kirstin Hall, "Forever Tonight," reinforced his popularity.

Last November, he released his second album, "Reflections."

For his Asian debut, Christian has a self-titled album distributed locally by BMG Records Pilipinas.

He is tirelessly promoting his new album in an Asian blitz. First stop was Manila, where he promoted "Reflections" in a series of TV appearances, radio tours and mall shows. He also made a special guest appearance in the one-night concert of the Irish boy band Westlife at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Manila is totally different from Germany," Christian noted. "It was a little difficult for me to be here but the people have been so nice and warm. They easily made me feel accepted."

"Reflections" is a showcase of Christian's growth as an artist. It also contains a variety of styles, different from his earlier album. Songs such as "Like the Sun" and "Tell Me Who You Are" are sure to please music fans worldwide who will have the opportunity to watch Christian performer in his Spring 2001 tour.

Christian also writes his own songs. He likes ballads, which dominate his new album, and which are a result of his penchant for writing poetry.

"I just want to give you good music," he said. "I have the gift of writing poetry and I'm thankful that I was also given the talent to create beautiful music."

Among his original pieces, Christian's favorites are the songs he wrote for his father and for a girl with whom he had a relationship that, however, did not work out.

The first single from his Asian debut album is the sentimental ballad "Why Goodbye," penned by Diane Warren. The song has been getting good airplay on local radio.

Christian's album also contains his duet with BMG Records artist Anna Fegi, "Two Hearts That Beat as One."

Christian considers Stevie Wonder his biggest influence. "It's not really his style but the way he makes music," Christian says.

He has big dreams, but for now, he is content with hearing his songs on the airwaves in every country he visits.

"Everything changes," he noted. "In five years, I hope I can still make beautiful music. I don't want to be a one-hit wonder."

SUGAR RAY

'Wingspan' traces McCartney flight in music history

RECORDS

AFTER the worldwide record-breaking success of The Beatles' "1" album, OctoArts-EMI Music releases "Wingspan: Paul McCartney Hits and History," a deluxe double-album set which contains 17 hot-selling singles and 24 tracks from nine Number 1 albums by the former Beatles frontman Paul McCartney and his band Wings.

Through 40 tracks and over an hour-and-a-half of music, "Wingspan" traces the hits (on disc 1) and history (on disc 2) of one of the most successful careers in music history.

The two-CD collection is available for the price of a single album.

This milestone collection contains old favorites such as "Live and Let Die," "Silly Love Songs," "No More Lonely Nights," "Band On the Run," "With A Little Luck" and other personal McCartney favorites such as "Mull of Kintyre," "Jet," "My Love," "Pipes of Peace," "Maybe I'm Amazed," "Helen Wheels," "Girlfriend," "Take It Away" and "Tug of War."

Music buffs will have more than a fill of vital musical history as this collection also features a great selection of photographs covering the entire Wings era.

Latest from Sugar Ray

SUGAR Ray, the popular Southern California-based quintet composed of Mark McGrath, Craig "DJ Homicide" Bullock, Stan Frazier, Murphy Karges and Rodney Sheppard, comes out of their self-imposed hiatus from the recording scene with a new album, "Sugar Ray," which features the carrier single, "When It's Over."

Produced by Don Gilmore, "Sugar Ray" is masterfully blended with the elements of pop, punk, hip-hop and rock 'n roll, creating a multifaceted album which takes the trademark Sugar Ray sound to the next level.

Warner Music Philippines recently heralded the arrival of this new album via a simultaneous airplay of "When It's Over" over radio stations Magic 89.9, 939 KC-FM, RX 93.1, 97.1 LS-FM, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and The Hive 100.3.

Provincial stations also participated in the nationwide simultaneous premiere.

'Perdegana'

OBLAXZ, 1999 Awit Award nominee for best rap recording, has just released their latest album, "Perdegana," under Concorde Records.

The album consists of 10 non-stop rap melodies suited for today's Generation X—"Ang Gusto Ko," "Kailan," "Pwersado Ka II," "Sagot Ko ang Buhay Mo" (from the original soundtrack of the movie of the same title) and the title track "Perdegana," among others.

After the success of Oblaxz's first album "Ang Testamento," "Perdegana is believed to be another sure favorite among hip-hop teens.

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7	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
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11	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPOT
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2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE REPLICANT
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	GET OVER IT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		**8820950**
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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
SM CITY NORTH EDSA		**9295452**
1	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GET OVER IT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
10	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
SM SOUTHMALL		**8066884 • 8066782**
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2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
9	ULTRA SURROUND	SPOT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	GET OVER IT
TUTUBAN CENTER		**2514302**
1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GET OVER IT
SM CEBU		**2313876**
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2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
SM ILOILO		**3209422**
1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
SM PAMPANGA		**7128015**
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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO

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3	THE REPLICANT	
4	BUHAY KAMAO	

GLORIETTA 4

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1	PEARL HARBOR	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE REPLICANT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PEARL HARBOR THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	GET OVER IT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SPOT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	HEAD OVER HEELS	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE MUMMY RETURNS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	THE REPLICANT	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	HEAD OVER HEELS	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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2	THE REPLICANT	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	HEAD OVER HEELS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SPOT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	GET OVER IT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8 [illegible]	THE REPLICANT
9 [illegible]	GET OVER IT
10 [illegible]	BUHAY KAMAO

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4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
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Golden Pearl THX

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3	GET OVER IT

Masagana CINEMA 2000

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1	BUHAY KAMAO
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2	RESERVE
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SPOT
5	PEARL HARBOR
6	PEARL HARBOR
7	THE REPLICANT
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	HEAD OVER HEELS

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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1	RESERVE
2	AMBISYOSA
3	PEARL HARBOR

Spring

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1	BUHAY KAMAO
A	PEARL HARBOR

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

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2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BUHAY KAMAO
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	GET OVER IT
5	PEARL HARBOR
6	THE REPLICANT
7 (DTS)	SPOT
8 (SDDS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
9 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	BUHAY KAMAO

Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
5	GET OVER IT
6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS)	LABRADOR
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	ALAS DOSE

Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SPOT
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4	LABRADOR
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
6	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8	GET OVER IT

Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	THE REPLICANT
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	SPOT
4	GET OVER IT
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR

Universal

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1	BUHAY KAMAO

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BUHAY KAMAO

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	LABRADOR

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1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4	GET OVER IT

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1	
3	BUHAY KAMAO

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3	LABRADOR
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SPOT

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2	PEARL HARBOR
3	LABRADOR
4	THE REPLICANT
5	GET OVER IT
6	RESERVE

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CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BUHAY KAMAO
2	THE REPLICANT
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	
5	

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(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	ANGEL EYES
3 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ANTS IN THE PANTS
2 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
4	ANGEL EYES

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
2	MY WIFE LOVER
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS)	THE REPLICANT

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 536.5101

1	PEARL HARBOR
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3	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Tagaytay

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1	KAMASUTRA
2	15 MINUTES
3	SAMBAHIN ANG NGALAN MO

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	ANGEL EYES

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
2 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO

Fourstep

(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PEARL HARBOR

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SELOSA
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981 0790

1	ANGEL EYES
2	LABRADOR
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	PEARL HARBOR

Berma

tel 879 2168

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	THE REPLICANT

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SPOT
2	LABRADOR
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4	PEARL HARBOR

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY [illegible])	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	ANGEL EYES
4 (DTS [illegible])	ANTS IN THE PANTS

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4	SPOT
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7	THE REPLICANT

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1	OPENS JUNE 13, 2001
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3	PEARL HARBOR
4	PEARL HARBOR
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6	GET OVER IT
7	SPOT
8	HEAD OVER HEELS
9	OPENS JUNE 13, 2001
10	OPENS JUNE 13, 2001

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4	GET OVER IT
5	SPOT
6	BUHAY KAMAO

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6	CARTA ALAS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HEAD OVER HEELS
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON-2	ALAS DOSE
ROBEN	CARTA ALAS
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TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	LOST / HARD BULLET
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	BUHAY KAMAO
QUEZON-1	PEARL HARBOR
REMAR	PEARL HARBOR
REMAR-2	ALAS DOSE
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	LABRADOR
CINEMA-3	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-8	ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-12	REPLICANT
CINEMA-14	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-15	HEAD OVER HEELS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-2	SPOT
CINEMA-3	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-4	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	PEARL HARBOR
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
CINEMA-4	KATAWAN
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

Assunta...

(From page A22)

them one by one.

All four episodes were classic roles in Philippine movie classics—Hilda Koronel's title role in "Insiang," Lorna Tolentino's in "Maging Akin Ka Lamang," Maricel Sorinao's in "Kaya Kong Abutin ang Langit" and Vilma Santos's in "Tagos ng Dugo."

Assunta insists she is neither imitating nor competing with Rica Peralejo.

"I was offered bold roles when I was 14 but my manager junked them, not even bothering to read the stories," Assunta says. "I waited for the right time and that time is now. All those bad write-ups about Rica and me are false. I just want to work. I don't want to create enemies."

Controversies

The Rica issue is not the only controversy into which Assunta's name has been dragged. There have been rumors about her family and about her alleged dalliance with a governor from the North.

"They are making stories about my parents who are not really separated," she says. "The truth is, my father prefers to live in Italy because he cannot adopt to the ways of the Filipinos. He is a seaman, an Italian named Luigi. My mom has joined him and my two other sisters. If time permits, I would like to visit them for a short vacation. My father is very supportive of my movie career."

Assunta has yet to learn how to cope with bad publicity. She has yet to learn, too, how to live with the old show business dictum that it is better to be talked about, even in a bad light, than to be not talked about.

The . . .

(From page A22)

talking already," Aga said.

"You've said your piece. Don't make yourself look cheap, or I'd get in trouble defending you."

Stuff like that, which only goes to show that Aga is such a softie. You may think he's happy-go-lucky but he's such a deep and intense person. So the prophets of doom who keep saying that the Aga-Charlene marriage won't last better take back their words.

He knows the way to Tita Nena's heart and I'm sure he is headed in that direction. He is just sidetracked by the bystanders.

When Tita Nena and he do get a chance to really, really talk, they will be arguing, all right. Arguing about who loves each other the most.

Personal

WELCOME home, CIRE! You live inside my heart.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

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Kate Beckinsale
Cuba Gooding Jr.
Alec Baldwin
William Lee Scott
Jon Voight

June 14 - Thursday
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7:15 PM - Pearl Harbor
10:45 PM - Pearl Harbor

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They're funny that way

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

STARS are beautiful, glamorous, famous, wealthy, talented—and peculiar, each in his own fashion. People call them weird, but they disagree. They feel they're entitled, and they're just funny that way—their way. For instance:

Jim Carrey has his pet Labrador, Hazel, massaged by a professional three times a week.

Other stars take their pet pooches to The Dog House in Los Angeles, a day-care center for canines that keeps celebrities' pets occupied all day with paw painting, ceramics, swimming, sunbathing, story time and moviemaking!

Peter Fonda wears bullet-proof sunglasses.

Woody Allen takes his temperature every two hours.

Rene Russo asked God for permission to bare her breasts in "The Thomas Crown Affair."

Mariah Carey rejected a limousine that was to take her to the Grammy awards because its color didn't match the gown she had on.

Ashley Judd specifies that drinking water served to her must be exactly 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

Anne Bancroft sometimes pretends to have an imaginary daughter named Melissa, to whom she talks when her husband and son ignore her.

Woody Harrelson once owned a bar that served only oxygen.

Jenna Elfman drinks only "miracle water" imported from South America.

When **Elizabeth Taylor** asked **Michael Jackson** if she could get married to **Larry Fortensky** at Michael's ranch, Jackson suggested that his three giraffes be dressed in tuxedos to serve as a attendants. Luckily, Taylor nixed the suggestion, which was too weird even for her.

French Film Festival

LOCAL film buffs are eagerly patronizing the ongoing French Film Festival at the Shangri-La Plaza Cinema. Why don't you view some films today, to see what they're so excited about?:

Thursday, June 14, 2 p.m., "Salsa." A classical musician gives up his promising career and pretends to be a Latino so he can devote himself to his real love, Cuban music. By **Joyce Sherman Bunuel**, 1999.

At 5 p.m., "Girl on the Bridge." A suicidal young woman is saved by a knife-thrower who uses her in his act, with perverse consequences. By **Patrice Leconte**, 1999.

At 8 p.m., "Nightcap." A new film (2000) by the esteemed **Claude Chabrol**. A murder in the distant past is discovered when Jeanne Pollet learns that she could have been switched at birth with another baby who's now the son of an acclaimed pianist.

Cosby's kids

ON A RECENT telecast of Bill Cosby's how, "Kids Say the Darndest Things" on RPN-9 (Sundays, 8:30 p.m.), the witty children let loose with these spontaneous quips:

Cosby: How tall were the dinosaurs? Boy: They were like two million feet tall!

Cosby: What can you say about dinosaurs? Girl: They don't live anymore because they're extinct.

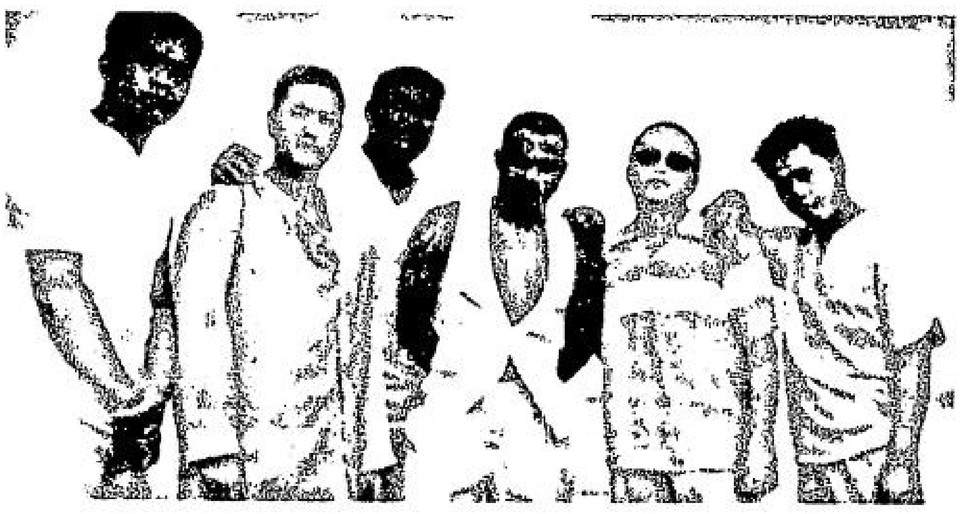
Cosby: What's your favorite animal? Boy: A skunk-because it's our next-door neighbor!

Cosby: Do you believe in aliens? Girl: Yes, because my dad brought them home one night. He's an astronaut!

Cosby: What do aliens eat? Girl: Shoes and socks in soup!

Cosby: Can you explain the game of golf to me? How is it played? Boy: Well, a golf club is opable of going into the ground when you push it too hard.

All together now: Huh?!?



SOUTH BORDER SINGS AT VIRGIN CAFÉ

South Border, the band the puts a twist to R&B-pop, will open the "Great Band Night" series of Virgin Café Tomas Morato, Quezon City, June 16, Saturday. The band will delight the audience with their current hits as well as their personal favorites. The "Great Band Night" series will feature top bands in the local music scene. South Border is composed of Luke Mejares, Paul Benitez, Jay Durias, Tata Balane, Ric Junasa and Butch Victoriano.

Side A performs at Padi's Mindave

SIDE A Band, the pop quintet of Joey Generoso, Naldy Gonzales, Kelly Badon, Ernie Severino and Joey Benin, holds a special concert tonight at Padi's Mindave, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

The new restaurant is fast making a name for its diverse variety of delicious barbecue meals, apart from its unique flaming tuna sisig, pork sisig, chicken sisig and grilled seafoods.

Padi's Mindave offers its best-selling barbecues in five popular flavors: homestyle, spicy, peanut, mustard and teriyaki, all of which are served with java rice and acharra.

Also among the favorites include the Sate barbecue and the unique Chicken barbecue (served with mango sauce, java rice and atcharra).

For families and groups, Padi's Mindave offers homestyle barbecue feast, Padi's sampler feast and the impressive party of six (pork, chicken, hito, tilapia, bangus and squid barbecue sticks served standing on a special wooden plate).

Padi's Mindave has recently also produced its new "Goto Mindave," a unique version of the popular goto congee.

For the special concert of Side A tonight, Padi's Mindave will come out with new twists to chicken, tuna, burger and hotdog sandwiches.

Padi's Mindave opens daily at 11 a.m. lunchtime and closes at 2:30 a.m. daily (closing at 4:30 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays). For inquiries, call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

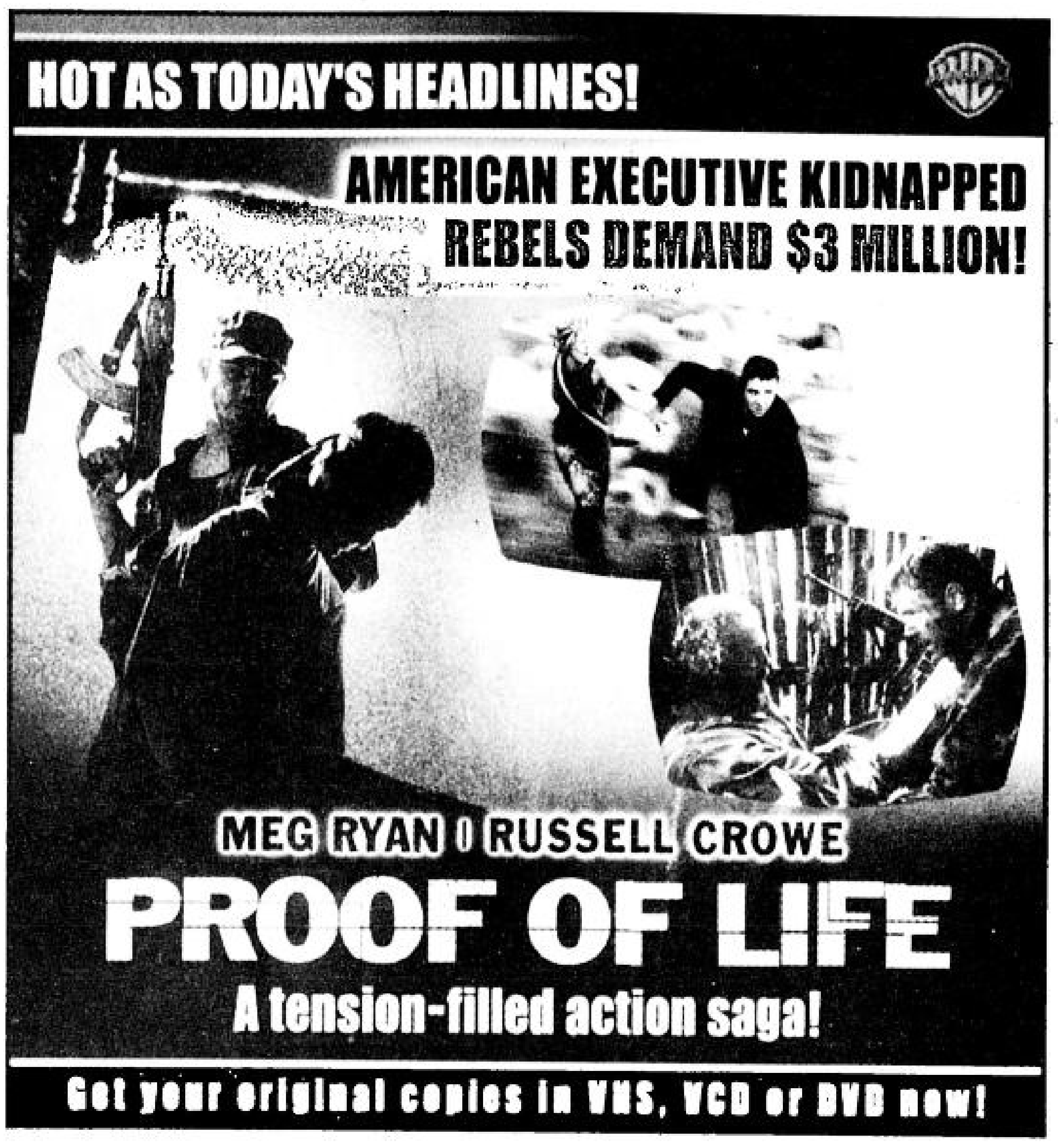
Special guest

SINGER-ACTRESS Ara Mina is the special guest in a show topbilled by Gladys and the Boxers with K, June 15, 10 p.m., at Chatterbox West.

Ara will sing cuts from her album, "Heavenly."

Gladys and the Boxers with K will dish out a mixed repertoire of Top 40 tunes and R&B numbers.

For tickets, call 412-0981..



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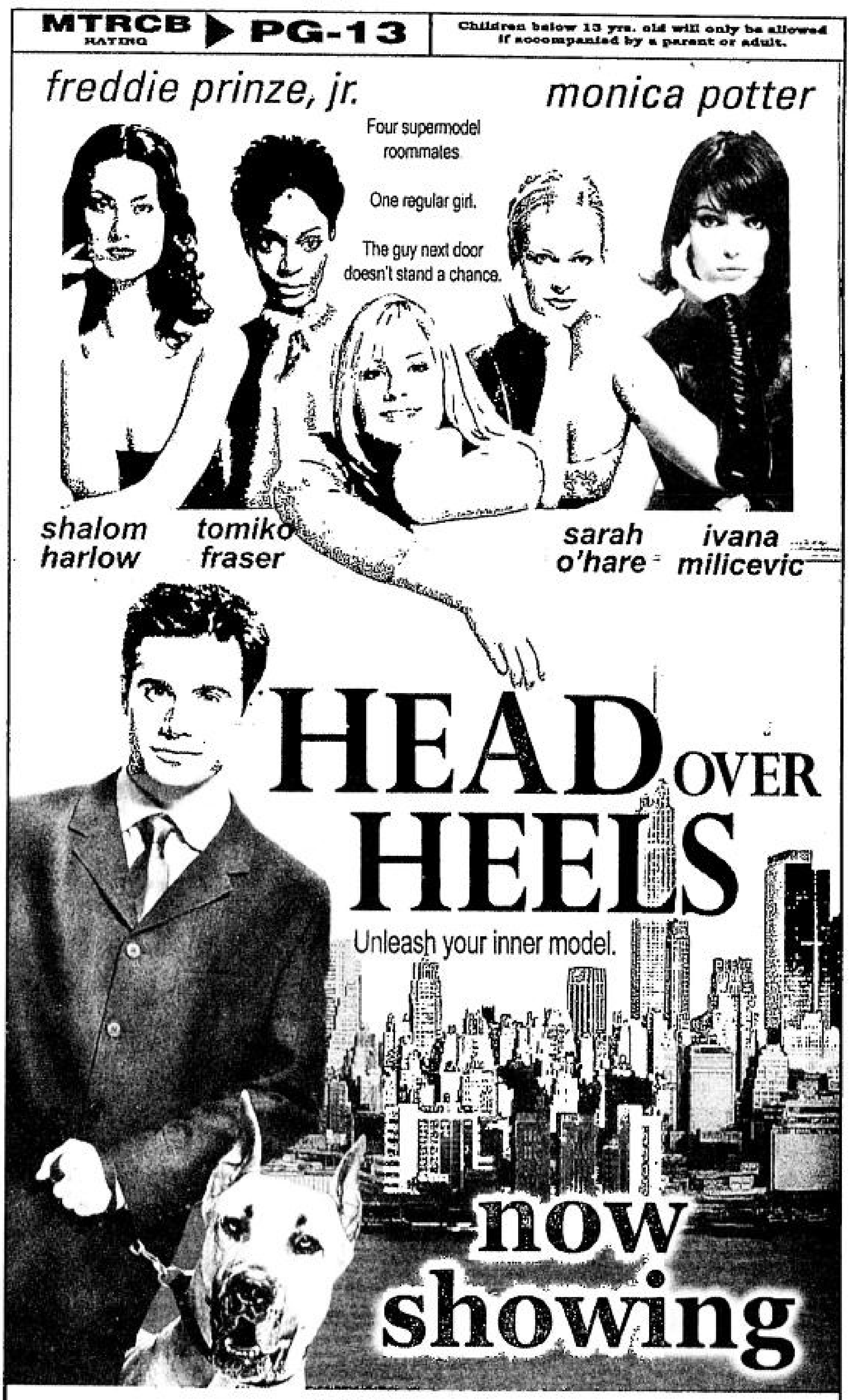

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
freddie prinze, jr.
monica potter
Four supermodel roommates
One regular girl.
The guy next door doesn't stand a chance.
shalom harlow
tomiko fraser
sarah o'hare
ivana milicevic
HEAD OVER HEELS
Unleash your inner model.
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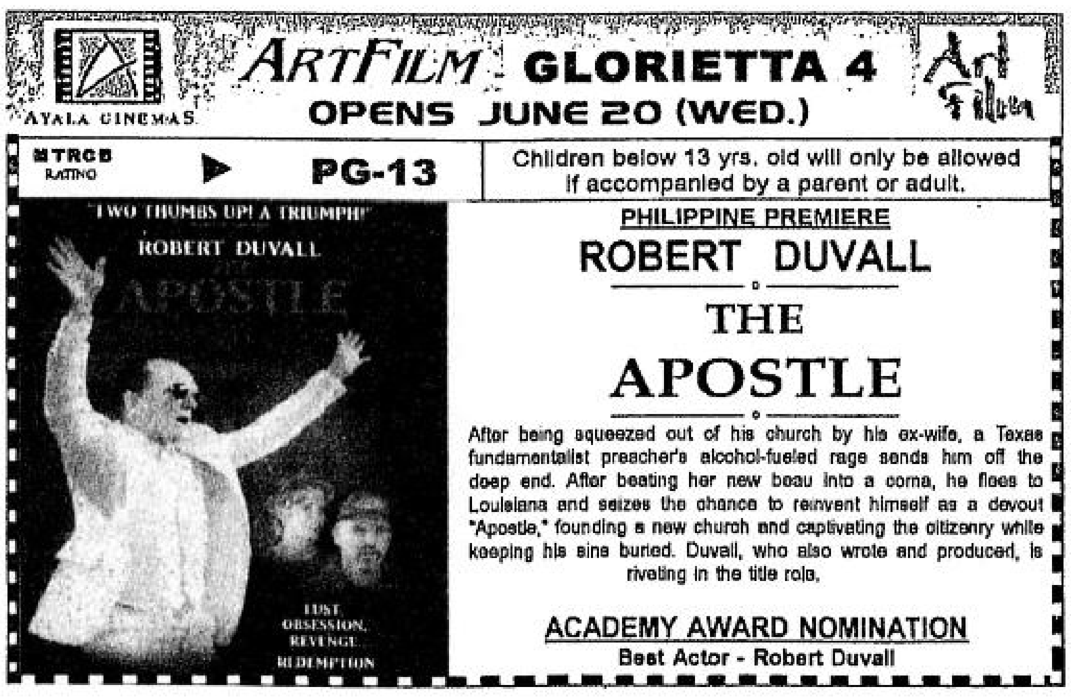

AYALA CINEMAS
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Art Film
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LUST. OBSESSION. REVENGE. REDEMPTION
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
ROBERT DUVALL
THE APOSTLE
After being squeezed out of his church by his ex-wife, a Texas fundamentalist preacher's alcohol-fueled rage sends him off the deep end. After beating her new beau into a coma, he flees to Louisiana and seizes the chance to reinvent himself as a devout "Apostle," founding a new church and captivating the citizenry while keeping his sins buried. Duvall, who also wrote and produced, is riveting in the title role.
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION
Best Actor - Robert Duvall

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HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 12:20, 3:50, 7;20	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 1:00, 4:30, 8:00

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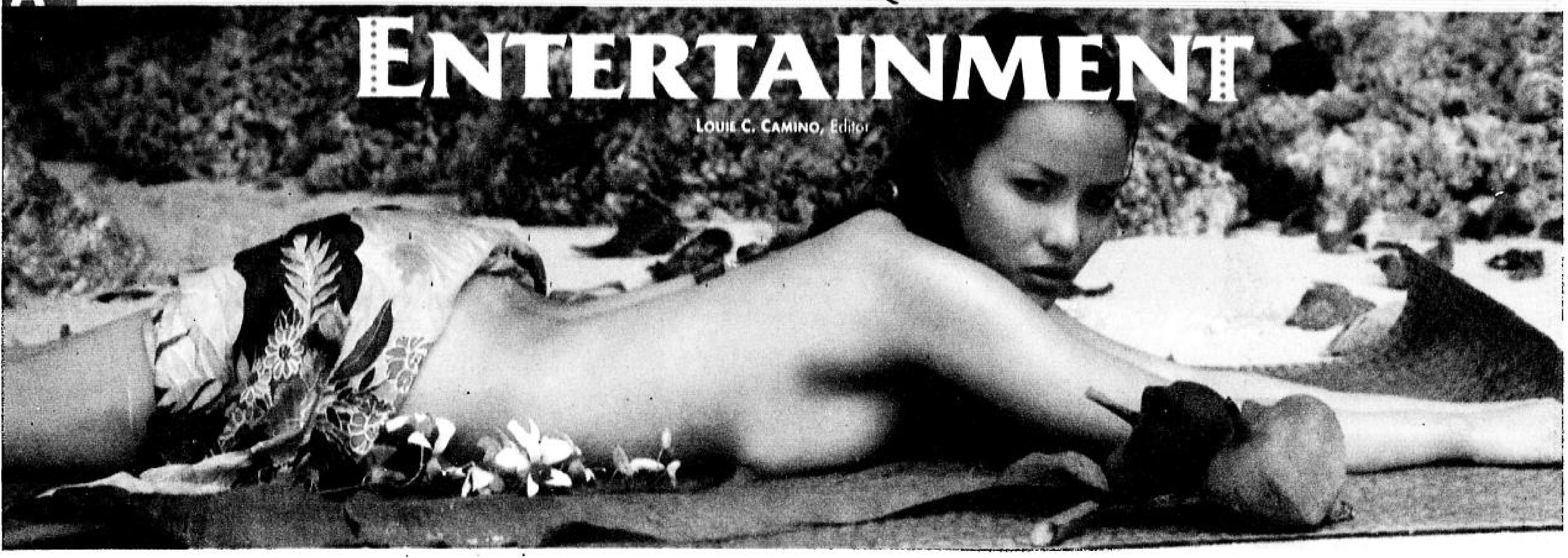
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



JANNA VICTORIA

For the sake of 'art'

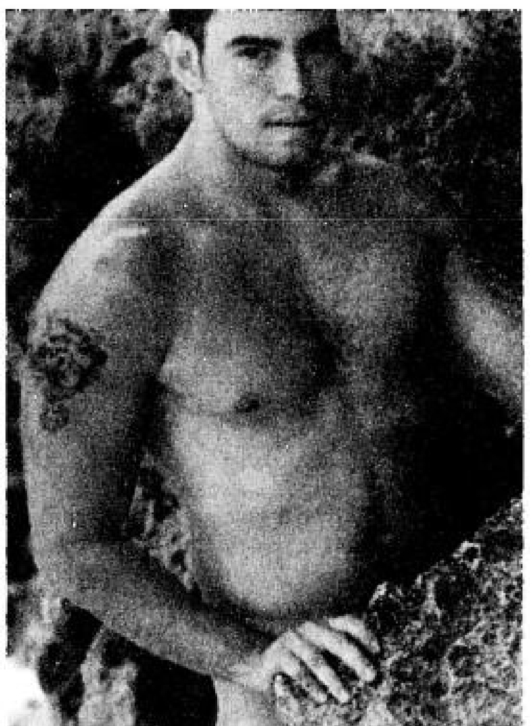
YOU'VE seen them naked in their movies. Now you can see them, again and again, and even "touch" them, in a publication that its makers call "an art book."

You can see Carlos Morales (Star Awards Best Actor for Chito Roño's "Laro sa Baga" where he played fire with Ara Mina) uncovered, in the sand, in the sea and in the arms of sex sirens Patricia Javier (Peque Gallaga's "Unfaithful Wife 2") and Janna Victoria ("Lagarista," where she was delivered in the arms of film reel delivery boy Piolo Pascual). All in full, shining, vibrant color photography by Raymund Isaac.

You can see, among others, how Janna and Patricia transform the simple act of eating a mango into a communal, sensual experience.

Isaac shot the three stars on Boracay for the "art book" that publisher Stargate Media Corp. called "Flesh for Fantasy," which captures "the gracious sensuality of the human body."

"Very limited copies are limited," promises Stargate.



CARLOS MORALES

JANNA VICTORIA

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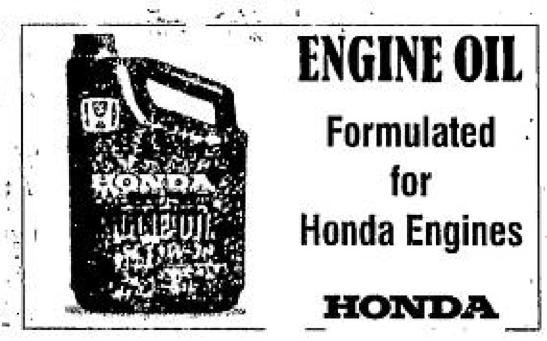
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Malacañang stops deal with Maynilad

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE GOVERNMENT has backtracked on its decision to allow private water utility Maynilad Water Services Inc. to increase its basic water rate by 72 percent or P4.75 per cubic meter.

In a Cabinet meeting yesterday, key officials of the Macapagal administration directed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to recall immediately the Memorandum of Cooperation it signed with Maynilad.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who also chairs the MWSS Board of Trustees, told the INQUIRER that majority of the Cabinet members opposed the deal with Maynilad.

"Some Cabinet members are suspicious that the provisions of that (memorandum) are amendments to the concession agreement for the water operations of the Manila west zone for 25 years," Datumanong told the INQUIRER in an interview.

He said this development would force the two parties to return to the negotiating table.

Datumanong added that as chair of the policy-making body of the MWSS Regulatory Office, he had ordered Administrator Jose F. Mabanta and Chief Regulator Rex Tantiongco to check if the memorandum of cooperation violated provisions of the concession agreement.

He also noted that Maynilad could not hurl legal impediments against the government as a memorandum of cooperation "is not legally binding and could be subjected to further review by one of the parties involved."

The Memorandum of Cooperation between the government and the Lopez-owned Maynilad was aimed at solving the financial problems of the company.

It was signed last Friday by MWSS Administrator Mabanta and Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III. Datumanong and Tantiongco witnessed the signing.

The memorandum contained conditions that would allow Maynilad to increase its basic rate a second time this year to recover within the next 18 months some P2.7 billion in foreign exchange losses. This would have been the biggest increase in four years since the water distribution sector was privatized in 1997.

Maynilad had argued that a rate adjustment was within the Extraordinary Pricing Adjustment provision of its concession agreement with the government.

Early this year, Maynilad was allowed to increase its basic rate by 45 centavos on account of the higher inflation and the peso's depreciation. The Ayala-owned Manila Water Co., on the other hand, got the go-ahead to adjust its basic water charge by 19 centavos.

The current basic rate of Maynilad is P6.58 per cubic meter. Aside from the basic rate, there is also a fixed P1.27-per-cubic-meter fee to cover for changes in the peso-dollar exchange rate, known as "Cera," and other charges for meters, sewers, environmental fees and value-added tax.

Maynilad had been pressing the government to allow it to recover its losses arising from the sharp depreciation in the value of the peso against the dollar since last year through an automatic Cera.

However, the government turned down Maynilad's request because this would mean changing the terms of the 25-year concession agreement.

Maynilad assumed the huge debt obligations from the old MWSS as it absorbed the bulk of the MWSS' foreign loans amounting to $800 million when it won the bidding for half of the water firm's concession area.

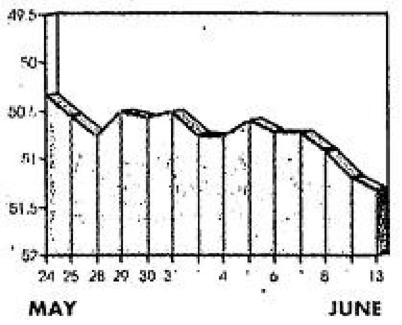
Maynilad stopped paying for these debt obligations to the MWSS since March after the government turned down its request to have an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment scheme to recover fluctuations in the exchange rate.

"We now have P620 million in concession fees to Maynilad which is a joint venture between the Lopez group and the Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France. It accounts for the west zone, which includes Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.310= $1
As of 5 p.m., June 13, 2001

Y 122.22 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.22 as of 5 p.m., June 13, 2001

GOLD:$271.20/271.70
per ounce Hong Kong, June 13, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up

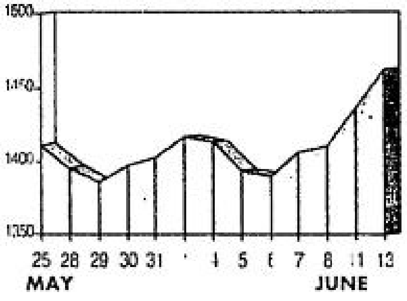
STOCKS gained yesterday, spurred by foreign buying in blue chips Benpres Holdings Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., as the market brushed aside the kidnapping drama in Basilan.

Traders said bargain-hunters prowled the market, sustaining a rise, which began on Monday.

The main index closed up 26.89 points, or 1.87 percent, at 1,462.66 points. Volume rose to P942.77 million compared with Monday's P682.34 million.

Reuters

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Gov't sees flat export growth, weaker peso

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration has scaled down its export growth forecast for 2001 to one percent from an earlier target of 4 percent to take into account the slowdown in the economies of the United States and Japan, the country's two biggest trading partners.

Actual export growth last year was 8.7 percent.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council, which brought down the country's export growth target, has not ruled out the possibility of hitting flat growth or even a contraction in exports this year.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, head of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., said the group was already looking at a one-percent contraction in shipments this year.

"Orders should be coming in by now but we have yet to feel any significant purchases. We are already looking at a negative one- to a positive one-percent growth this year," the Philexport head said.

The country's exports to the United States and Japan account for 45 percent of the country's total shipments. Their economies, however, are on the brink of falling into a recession.

The other targets that the economic team had revised included the peso whose average was adjusted to a range of 49 to 50 to $1 from 47 to 49 to $1; imports growth to 3.2 percent from 6 percent; and gross national product growth to a range of 3.5 to 3.9 percent from a range of 4 to 4.5 percent.

The DBCC's most significant revision approved by the Macapagal Cabinet yesterday was a lower gross domestic product growth ranging from 3.3 to 3.8 percent from an earlier 3.8 to 4.2 percent.

GDP, the best measure of the country's economic performance, grew by 3.9 percent last year despite a seri-

GOV'T/ B2

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PNOC considering divestment of stake in exploration unit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-OWNED Philippine National Oil Co. is considering selling most of its 99.8-percent stake in PNOC Exploration Co. in line with the government's privatization policy.

PNOC-EC Chair Horacio V. Paredes yesterday said the sale of the shares was part of management's agreement with the Department of Finance when the firm borrowed money to fund its stake in the Malampaya gas project.

PNOC-EC holds a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya project, which is expected to yield $9 billion in government royalties over the next 20 years on top of the firm's share in the consortium's income.

Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Texaco Philippines each hold a 45-percent stake in the project.

Paredes was reacting to a comment made during PNOC-EC's annual stockholders' meeting.

A shareholder asked whether PNOC was considering a secondary public offering to raise more revenues for the government.

"There's already an agreed amount to be sold," Paredes said, adding: "Whether there will be a secondary market, we will leave this to the DOF. But if this will raise revenue and further income, then why not?"

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said in an interview that they still had to study the exact number of shares to be sold.

Bomasang said the reason for the sale of the shares was more of the government's policy on privatization than to raise funds.

"We probably need to have a financial adviser to study this," he added.

The PNOC-EC president added that he believed the government would have to retain a substantial stake in the firm.

"Not all shares will be sold just like with Petron's privatization. Of course, a private sector firm must have a majority stake to make it a private company," he said.

Bomasang said PNOC needed to get the approval of the Privatization Management Office (which replaced the Committee on Privatization/Asset Privatization Trust) before it could proceed.

Asked how the money raised from the sale of the shares would be used, he said it had to be decided by PNOC.

"We are very much in the early thinking stage. We don't know exactly when we will do this because it needs the right timing," Bomasang said.

During the meeting, Bomasang was reelected as president of PNOC-EC while PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan was elected PNOC-EC chair.

Paredes joined the new batch of directors along with Alfredo M. Bunye Jr., Rolando C. Escalona, Felix C. Guanzon, Milagros V. Reyes, Lourdes Ll. Pimentel and Michael O. Mastura.

Gov't sees flat export growth . . .

(From page B1)

ous political crisis that eventually led to the ouster of Joseph Estrada from Malacañang.

Economic growth only stood at 2.5 percent in the first quarter, much lower than the projected 3-percent GDP improvement. The sluggish growth in the first three months of the year was seen to bring down the full-year level.

A ranking finance official said the economic team had to scale down as well its expectations for the peso since lower export growth would mean less dollar inflows that, in turn, usually leads to a weaker local currency.

The only important targets maintained by the DBCC were inflation at a range of 6-7 percent, the budget deficit at P145 billion, privatization earnings at P7 billion, and revenue collection of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue dnd Customs at P408 billion and P120 billion.

The finance official said the technical working group of the DBCC was already starting to discuss next year's targets and how these would be affected by the expected lower growth this year.

The DBCC is made up of officials of the Departments of Finance and of Budget, the Bureau of Treasury, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

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Professor Francisco L. Roman Jr., Program Director, is the Don Andres Soriano Professor of Business Management and until recently was the Executive Director of the AIM Washington Sycip Policy Forum. He is now developing the design and research for the General Management area. He specializes in international business with a sub-specialization in agribusiness exports. He has explored competitiveness in industrial development zones outside metropolitan areas, in the Asean Free Trade Area and specifically in the sub-region now known as EAGA (the East Asia Growth Area), and in joint ventures and Asian multinational enterprises in the Asia Pacific region. Prior to that, he contributed chapters and cases in two books published in 1989, *Strategic Management in Developing Countries*, and *Seeking Solutions: Small Enterprise Development in the Third World*, and co-authored and edited a monograph on the *Philippine Mutual Fund Industry* (1996). Professor Roman has written over 200 cases and notes since 1968.

Professor Roman completed his Doctorate in Business Administration at the Harvard Business School in 1989. His academic records include an MBA 1968 at the Ateneo University, an MA in Economics 1974 at the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center, and the International Teachers' Programme in 1977 at the Centre D'Enseignement Superieur Des Affaires in Paris, France.

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AIM EXECUTIVE EDUCATION and LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

It's plan to see

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

YEHEY! So now we have a medium-term Philippine development plan for 2001 to 2004. It goes by the inspiring title "2001-2004 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan." Just by the sound of it, it's plain to see that the plan offers the business community a compelling reading.

It's not true, by the way, that senators are so elated by the plan. They are going on official trips abroad to celebrate by spending a lot of our tax money. They do not even know that a plan exists. It's still a plan to be seen.

If you believe reports about some rare sightings of the plan, government economists have virtually crafted a war plan. It seems to talk a lot about "fighting." For instance, the plan supposedly vows to "pursue the war against poverty and joblessness."

The plan seems to consider poverty and joblessness as two different enemies. In other countries, instead of looking for a fight, they normally try to solve the problem of joblessness. If people have jobs, they hardly qualify as poor, obviously.

In our country, however, it seems that even if we win the war against joblessness, we still have to win the war against poverty, at least based on the "2001-2004 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan." You see, even if we have jobs, most of us are still poor. So what about those who have no jobs? They are the poorest of the poor.

* * *

MANY similar plans in the past also declared war against poverty. With the man named Band. . . Wrist Band. . . winning presidential election, I am not really sure that we have fought the war valiantly enough. The man got away with 11 million of the so-called poor votes.

That's why the new plan, titled 2001-2004 etc., claims to use a different strategy. Our many similar plans before had attacked the opponent with economic growth for weapons.

In less violent but more caloric terms, let's say the economy is a pie, and all of us are hungry. Naturally if we bake a bigger pie, meaning, we put the economy in the oven, then we all get bigger portions of the crumbs. In theory, at least.

It is known as the trickle-down effect. It assumes that those up there who get to the pie first, are not greedy, heartless, opportunistic capitalist pigs. In other words, if the economy grows, everybody is happy, not only the travelling senators.

* * *

UNDER the new plan, this cute administration of Gloriaetta envisions a set of policies that will take care of the needs of the poor directly. It will not just leave things to chance. This indicates a new philosophy—the poor as obligation instead of burden.

The question is, will the government put up the money to back those policies? In shelter, for instance, we have needed socialized housing system for the longest time. The only problem has been, we have not had the money, precisely because we are a poor country.

By definition, a poor country lacks money. As it is, we always do not have enough funding to pursue every policy to take care of the needs of the poor. And to think, the plan resolves to attack yet another foe, the one called "budget deficit."

In this conflict, with a heavy demand on government funding for the war against poverty, on the one hand, and with the need to control government spending, on the other, one of those opposing forces must give eventually. Guess which one?

* * *

THAT'S why, even if in my heart I cheer for the humanity of the new plan titled 2001-2004 etc., I cannot begin to understand how this cute administration can afford to pursue policies directly addressing the needs of the poor right now.

Like it or not, the war can only be won in the oven! I mean, we simply have to bake a bigger pie year in and year out, and as we go along, maybe our bosses will find it in their hearts to mete out larger portions by raising our starvation pay to , well, hungry pay. No, boss, that's not a hint! Really!

It's where Gloriaetta herself can be valuable. You know—in baking! Believe me, she understands the need for a bigger economic pie. She has a Ph.D. in Economics, and I heard that her doctorate paper had something to do with public finance.

For proof, just look at how she kicked upstairs former senator, former finance secretary, currently Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. Why? Because she needed somebody who really understands finance in Finance. Or why else would it be called the Department of Finance? Duh!

* * *

NOW this one I only heard in business circles. Maybe Gloriaetta can have lunch with her former classmate, the former US President by the name of Bill Clinton. He knows a thing or two about being a President who minds the economy.

Pareng Bill himself says his legacy to the US presidency is the institutionalization of the White House economic unit. This monitored the economy very closely, more intimately than the interns. Este, I mean, all government agencies which veered away from the plan were treated to sound scolding. From Bill himself.

So why not? Gloriaetta has shown she can work with the private sector. She even wants to form what she calls the Government Advisory Council of individuals from the private sector that will act as an anti-corruption body. I guess it's her way of saying that, for good governance, business must also police its own ranks.

As my Apong Oning used to say, if there's corruption, there must be a corruptee and a corruptor. In BIR and Customs parlance, if there's bribe, there is a giver and a. . . well, extortionist. The council might just work, who knows?

SEC names own ombudsman to enforce anti-graft rules

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission, for the first time ever, is taking in a resident ombudsman who will enforce anti-graft and corruption rules throughout the government regulatory agency.

The SEC will sign this afternoon a memorandum of agreement for the installation of Cesar Tirol II from the Office of the Ombudsman in Malacañang as its resident watchdog.

Other government agencies such as the Bureau of Immigration, Land Transportation Office and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport have their own resident Ombudsman officers.

Complaints against SEC employees and officers will be referred to the resident ombudsman.

A senior SEC official noted that the appointment of a resident ombudsman in SEC would act as a strong incentive for the agency's employees to take seriously the rules of conduct spelled out by the Securities Regulation Code.

Under the SRC, commissioners, including the SEC chair, officers and employees of the commission should observe the highest standards of honesty, integrity and good faith in the performance of their duties.

Officers are prohibited from entering into activities that will give rise to a conflict of interest in the performance of their jobs as public servants.

The securities code cited, for example, the following possible conflict of interest situations that should be disclosed:

- Interest in any registered securities or investment;
- Receipt of compensation or privilege from any organization registered with the SEC or from a person who does business with the regulatory agency, and
- Solicitation or acceptance of any gift, loan or other benefit from any organization registered or applying for registration with the SEC.

OIL PRICE IMPACT

2001 inflation seen at 6.24%

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation is forecast at 6.24 percent this year on pressure from high oil prices and weak foreign exchange, but contained by slow consumer demand, a Reuters poll of 10 financial institutions showed.

Economists said expectations for benign weather and a minimal impact from the El Niño drought phenomenon this year would also cap inflation.

For 2002, however, the foreign financial institutions forecast the country's average annual inflation at a lower 5.7 percent.

Annual inflation was 4.4 percent in 2000. Inflation averaged at 5.1 percent in 1996, inched up to 6.1 percent the following year and surging to 10.4 percent in 1998. The next year, however, it dipped to 4.3 percent.

The forecast is the lowest in Reuters polls since September last year.

"Weak domestic demand will be the main driver of inflation in the second half of the year," said Graham Parry, economist of Lehman Brothers.

World oil prices are expected to fall in the second half, which should help keep annual inflation near the low end of the government's target of 6 to 7 percent.

Local oil companies raised pump prices 2.5 to 3.3 percent last month after a rollback in prices in January.

Economists said the peso was likely to hold on to the 50 to the dollar level for the rest of the year. It is currently at around 50.70 from the year-end 2000 level of 49.87.

Interest rates are also on the decline and could fall further this year with expectations for more rate cuts in the United States.

"We are assuming another 100 basis-point reduction in (overnight) interest rates probably this year," said Steve Brice, economist of Standard Chartered.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura had said the bank's key overnight rates might fall to 8.25 percent from the current overnight borrowing rate of 9 percent if inflation continues benignly around 6.25 percent.

The companies polled by Reuters were ABN Amro, BNP Paribas, C.S. First Boston, Chase Manhattan, Citibank, G.K. Goh Securities, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch Securities, S&P MMS, and Standard Chartered Bank.

Reuters

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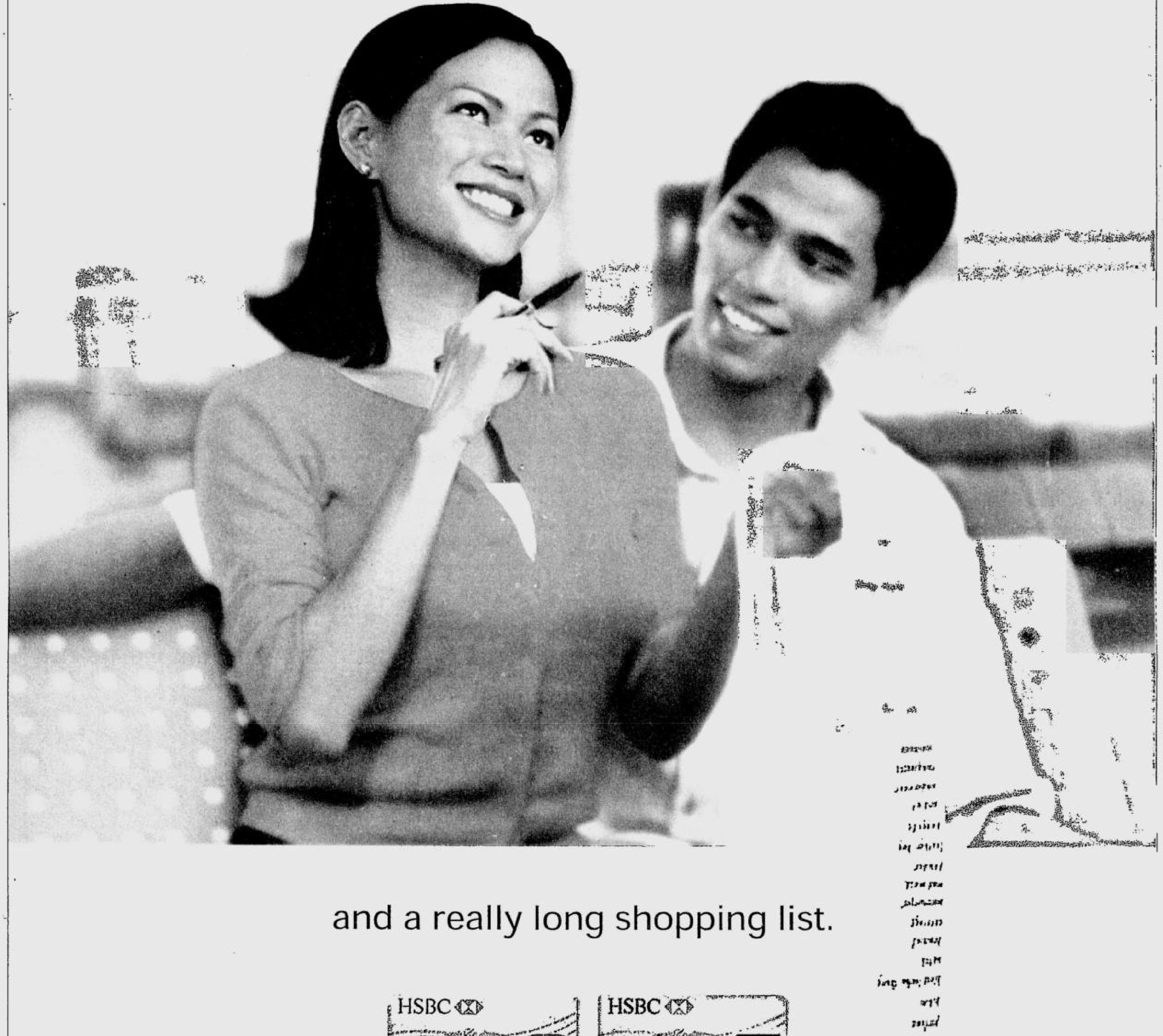

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ROCKWELL DEVELOPMENT

Lopez group seeks partners

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOPEZ group of companies is hatching a partnership with three foreign groups, including the Government of Singapore Investment Corp., to develop its Rockwell commercial center in Makati.

Industry sources yesterday told the INQUIRER that GIC, a state-owned corporation established in 1981 to manage Singapore's $100 billion in reserves, was supposed to buy into the 15.5-hectare Rockwell project even before President Macapagal was sworn into office.

In a separate interview, Benpres Holdings Corp. chief financial officer Angel Ong said three foreign groups were keen on developing Rockwell, and that a Singaporean group was among those interested. Ong, however, declined to name these groups.

"There's no question that Rockwell will be attractive to investors," Ong said.

Persons familiar with the matter said the Singaporean group talking to the Lopez group was GIC.

GIC's funds are invested all over the world in assets such as equities, fixed-income and money market instruments, real estate, and other special investments.

GIC is composed of three separate companies—The Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd, GIC Real Estate Pte Ltd and GIC Special Investments Pte Ltd.

Ong said the Rockwell commercial complex had turned out to be a significant source of revenue for the Lopez group. Out of 850 condominium units available, only 100 remained unsold while the Power Plant mall was already 90 percent leased out, he said.

Rockwell Land Corp., the company formed to develop the Makati property, is a joint venture among Manila Electric Co., Benpres Holdings Corp. and First Philippine Holdings Corp.

Last year, Rockwell Land posted gross revenues of P1.7 billion, mostly from sales of residential towers Hidalgo Place, Rizal Tower, Luna Gardens and Amorsolo Square.

"If you're going to expand, you have to put in new equity and not just rely on new loans," Ong said.

"It's true that they are looking for a new investor, especially on the mall project, to improve service and for further construction. We can still put up new office buildings and there's also a provision for a hotel construction," he said.

The second phase of Rockwell development includes the Ritz Carlton Hotel and a middle-income residential project.

Ong stressed that while the Lopez group would bring in a foreign partner for the project, it would not likely give up a majority stake.

PSE shelves ownership meeting

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has postponed its next membership meeting in view of the Securities and Exchange Commission's opposition to the PSE's ownership conversion scheme.

The PSE was supposed to meet yesterday to amend its charter to allow its 184 member brokers to convert their shareholdings into trading rights.

The stock exchange's plan was to issue new shares to the member without a corporate dissolution. The SEC, on the other hand, favored a dissolution to maximize the value of the PSE's shares.

PSE president Ramon Garcia said the PSE and SEC agreed to create a new company that would hold 80 percent of the PSE's total assets for a more favorable tax treatment.

"But right now, we don't have the land titles. We still have to get the consent of the donors," Garcia said.

Last December, the PSE's member brokers approved the conversion of the PSE into a stock corporation with an authorized capital stock of P5 billion. Their seats were converted into shares with a par value of P8 million. *D.C. Dumlao*

PLDT finishes GMA due diligence

A WHOLLY OWNED unit of telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said yesterday it had completed the due diligence on broadcast firm GMA Network Inc., which it planned to acquire.

ePLDT managing director Ray Espinosa told Reuters that while the deal had yet to be sealed, the planning on how to improve GMA's television programming had begun.

ePLDT is leading a group of financial investors for the acquisition of a majority stake in GMA.

PLDT, through another one of its units, Mediaquest Holdings Inc., earlier entered into a memorandum of understanding with GMA to buy a controlling 66.77-percent stake in the broadcasting firm for P8.5 billion.

"We are still summarizing the findings. What is clear when we finally acquire (a majority stake) in GMA is to allow it to market its shows in countries abroad. This is one of the aspects we want to focus on," Espinosa said.

The official said among the plans were to develop a channel that would market shows abroad and revive the UHF channel CityNet 27 into a channel devoted to news and public affairs.

"We had a long integration workshop and among the focus items were how to implement that strategy to develop a channel with shows marketed across the region. Another focus is to re-program CityNet 27 possibly into a news channel," he said.

Asked on whether Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. was engaged in discussions with PLDT for possible investments in mobile phone unit Smart Communications Inc., Espinosa said talks were at a very preliminary level.

"There are ongoing discussions. They want to keep the relationship with PLDT warm. But there are no deadlines and no specifics on how NTT will do more business with PLDT," he said *Reuters*

Gov't sets talks to raise $1.5B in 2002

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has started preparing for talks to raise $1 billion to $1.5 billion abroad to finance an expected P120-billion budget deficit next year.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday told reporters that the finance department had already raised enough money to finance this year's P145-billion deficit.

"I think we are pretty much set for this year, and any further borrowings will be for next year," Camacho said.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said in another interview that the government could raise money to cover next year's deficit during a road show scheduled either next month or in September.

Edeza disclosed that a $200-million loan from Credit Suisse First Boston was set to be released on June 18 while a $100-million loan from JP Morgan Chase Corp. might be out by June 21.

By the first week of July, he added, another $250 million would come from HSBC Corp. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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Agenda:

Part 1
0900 - Registration
1000 - Welcome
1010 - What's Hot, Cross Media?
1030 - Uncompressed Video from Aquisition to Distribution with Adam Green
1230 - Break

Part 2
1400 - Multi-Publishing with FreeHand 10
1445 - Enhance the User Experience with Flash 5
1515 - Image Manipulation with FireWorks 4
1545 - Web Publishing with Dreamweaver 4
1615 - Wrap up / Lucky Draw
1630 - Refreshments

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DISCLOSURES

ITOGON-Suyoc Mines Inc. said it was unaware of any material information that could have affected the unusual price movement in the trading of its shares on June 11.

***

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting and board meeting of **Philtread Holdings Corp.** scheduled on July 2 were reset to July 25.

***

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 28, 10 a.m., at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong.

***

EURO-Med Laboratories Philippines Inc. said the Securities and Exchange Commission approved an increase in its authorized capital stock from P2.6 billion to P3.8 billion.

***

ELECTED as officers of **Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc.** were Edison Co Seteng, chair, president and general manager; Kan Trakulhoon, vice chair; Ferdinand Edward Co Seteng and Pairoj Anamwathana, executive vice presidents; and Antonio Picazo, corporate secretary.

***

PICOP Resources Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 2:30 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club.

***

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **East Asia Power Resources Corp.** will be held on July 18, 10 a.m., at the Palawan Function Rooms 1 and 2, Edsa Shangri-la Plaza, Mandaluyong.

***

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **MIC Holdings Corp.** set on June 18 has been moved to July 18.

***

THE BOARD of **A Brown Co. Inc.** has decided to reduce the number of its directors from 11 to seven. Its annual stockholders' meeting has also been reset to July 20.

***

KUOK Philippine Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 10 a.m., at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, June 13, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	3,000
Bank of The Phil. Islands	76	76.5	76	76	1,099,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	41	39.5	41	196,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	219	218	219	104,910
Phil. Bank of Comm.	130	130	130	130	50
Philippine National Bank	49	49.5	48.5	49.5	93,100
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	3,800
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.25	19.25	20	34,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	25	25.5	323,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	253,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1385	1370	1385	10,800
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1155	1140	1150	6,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41	41	40	40	32,500
Diversified Fin. Network	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.55	10,800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	685	660	685	670
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Piltel	0.65	0.75	0.65	0.65	330,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	720	695	700	206,190
Ivantage Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	820,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.039	104,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41	41	41	120,100
Manila Electric Co. B	56	57.5	56	56	664,800
Petron Corp.	2.36	2.46	2.34	2.4	9,486,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	3.15	2.8	3.15	15,939,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	200,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	196,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.38	5,810,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	345,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	458,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	373,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	150,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	3,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.24	1,415,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41.5	42	79,300
San Miguel Corp. B	46	47	46	47	543,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.8	0.81	0.76	0.79	220,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7.2	7	7.2	5,078,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.64	1.56	1.64	1,381,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.75	11.25	11.25	1,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.82	0.8	0.82	250,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.58	23,540,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	18,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.2	130,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.94	2.14	1.94	2.1	75,638,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	310,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,680,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.34	0.29	0.34	19,330,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	918,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.5	24	24 25	85,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.22	0.25	1,410,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Ionics Inc.	12	12	12	12	16,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.12	418,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.6	48,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	600,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.84	0.76	0.84	15,680,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.54	8,200,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.54	1,620,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	162,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	2,330,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	700,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	220,000
Music Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.24	2.3	211,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	16,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.58	0.59	5,300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.57	0.59	3,200,000
Manila Jockey Club	15.5	16	15.5	16	25,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.3	5	5.3	17,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	41	41.5	40	40.5	288,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.44	50,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	690	690	690	690	600
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	25,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	112,000,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	3.45	3.45	3.3	3.3	200,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.031	17,700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.4	24,662,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.33	2,140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	8,600,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.36	2.38	2.34	2.38	4,306,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	250,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.5	10,160,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.08	6,200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	62,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	42,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	800,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	17,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,178,950	150,941,180.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	471,327,560	576,827,195.00
PRO	56,658,000	213,842,820.00
Mining	59,512,000	678,950.00
OIL	19,400,000	135,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	609,076,510	942,425,945.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	609.04	UP 3.66
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,029.13	UP 30.15
PRO	553.25	UP 15.78
Mining	1,101.13	DOWN 5.03
OIL	1.47	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	788.21	UP 13.29
Composite	1,462.66	UP 26.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 58; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 30; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 117; NO. OF TRADES: 5,042

CURRENCIES

June 13, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.172608	1.000000	51.0790
Japan	Yen	0.009639	0.008220	0.4199
United Kingdom	Pound	1.611632	1.374400	70.2030
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150355	0.128223	6.5495
Switzerland	Franc	0.655602	0.559097	28.5581
Canada	Dollar	0.769428	0.656168	33.5164
Singapore	Dollar	0.645886	0.550812	28.1349
Australia	Dollar	0.613963	0.523588	26.7444
Bahrain	Dinar	3.110531	2.652661	135.4953
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.312696	0.266667	13.6211
Brunei	Dollar	0.644114	0.549300	28.0577
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000089	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.025913	0.022099	1.1288
UAE	Dirham	0.319312	0.272309	13.9093
Korea	Won	0.001067	0.000910	0.0465
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.852800	43.5602
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.43603	22.2720
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130009	6.6407
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.386984	19.7668
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.061975	3.1656
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021140	1.0798
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000440	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143431	7.3263
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004254	0.2173
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005125	0.2618
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02114	1.0798
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.082833	55.3100

Economists split over Japan's money policy

TOKYO—As Japan's government embarks on a path of painful reform, economists are divided over whether the central bank should ease monetary policy to cushion an inevitable fall into recession.

The Bank of Japan's policy-setting panel will gather Thursday for a two-day meeting aimed at harmonizing monetary policy with the government's proposed structural reforms.

But economists argue it will be difficult for the bank to increase liquidity in the market in correlation with government plans to kick-start Japan's faltering economy.

"Now that the central bank has effectively restored the zero interest rate policy, there is little room left for monetary easing," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital (Japan) in a report.

But faced with a shrinking economy, falling prices and a global economic slowdown, politicians are putting pressure on the central bank to at least look like they are offering some help.

ING Barings chief economist Richard Jerram said this was a flawed strategy.

"If they act to be seen to be doing something then that would be a waste of time and I think they know that, a marginal change in policy would not change much," he told AFP.

The BoJ increased current account deposits from four trillion to five trillion yen in March to keep interest rates at the de facto zero rate, which Jerram described as a marginal change.

"In the coming months, if they decide to throw in another two trillion yen here or three trillion there, then it will not have any material effect," he said. *AFP*

FOR NOW

Asia dodges price pressures

SINGAPORE—Asian inflation forecasts for 2001 have been broadly scaled back, as the global slowdown keeps domestic economies and consumer demand under wraps, but prices will tick up next year on an expected recovery. ,

A Reuters poll on Tuesday saw growth forecasts for regional economies being sharply cut compared with the previous poll conducted in March.

According to economists surveyed in the quarterly inflation poll, low commodity prices and big industrial capacity surpluses will help keep prices subdued.

Economists said oil prices and weakening exchange rates remained the biggest risks to price stability.

These threats were clearly evident in Indonesia and South Korea, where inflation forecasts were revised up compared with the March survey.

Economists expect South Korea's consumer price index to rise 4 percent in 2001, compared with the 2.9-percent rise forecast in March.

"The weakening of the currency earlier this year and stubbornly high oil prices have led to some increases in government charges like utility charges," said Rob Subbaraman, a regional economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

Indonesia's year-on-year inflation is seen hitting 9.9 percent in 2001, against 8.4 percent forecast in March as the government cuts subsidies.

Hikes in domestic fuel prices and electricity tariffs are set for June, while telecommunications charges are also set to rise further.

The average growth forecast for China's benchmark consumer price index for 2001 was revised 1.4 percent from 1.36 percent in the previous forecast.

But unlike Indonesia and South Korea, where inflation forecasts were raised purely due to cost concerns, China's were seen higher mostly because of improved consumption spurred by government spending.

"The upward trend of CPI is bolstered by sustained investment helped by the state's expansionary fiscal policy," said Zhang Shuguang at the Beijing Unirule Institute of Economics.

Deflation is likely to drag on in Hong Kong for a third consecutive year in 2001 as the island grapples with shrinking global demand and weak consumer confidence.

Hong Kong is unable to depreciate its exchange rate to maintain export competitiveness because its currency is pegged to the US dollar.

In March, economists had expected inflation to return to Hong Kong this year, but in the latest poll they lowered their forecast to average a fall of 0.7 percent.

But they saw consumer prices rising 1.5 percent as business activity picked up.

Singapore's year-on-year inflation rate is expected to be 1.6 percent in 2001 and 1.8 percent in 2002.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore said in a recent survey that price pressures had moderated, largely due to the recent retreat in oil prices and sluggish consumer demand.

In Thailand, weak consumer demand and slow industrial production helped offset cost-push inflationary pressure from oil prices and a weak baht. *Reuters*

Layoffs seen increasing in Singapore

SINGAPORE—Layoffs were likely to increase in Singapore over the next few months amid the global economic slowdown and weak demand for electronic products, the government said Wednesday.

The number of Singapore workers laid off in the first quarter of 2001 rose sharply to 3,248, compared with a quarterly average of 1,900 in the last three quarters of 2000, the Ministry of Manpower said in its latest report.

Singapore's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2001 was 2.4 percent, down from 2.9 percent in the previous quarter.

However, "this improvement is likely to be short-lived as the economic slowdown has started to trigger a sharp increase in worker layoffs and a drop in job openings," the ministry's report said.

More people were expected to lose their jobs in the coming months, as some of the layoffs announced earlier would only be taking place later in the year, the report said.

A fresh crop of graduates in the job market was also "likely to aggravate" labor market conditions in the months ahead, it added.

Singapore, a wealthy Southeast Asian city-state of 4 million people, has no natural resources and depends heavily on manufacturing, especially of electronic goods. *AP*

Rate cuts to lift US in second half, says Fed

CHICAGO—The five rate cuts by Federal Reserve this year will likely to help the US economy pull out of its sluggish pace later this year, New York Federal Reserve Bank president William McDonough said here Tuesday.

McDonough called "reasonable" a recent forecast by Blue Chip Economic Indicators that the US growth would accelerate to 2.1 percent in the third quarter and 3 percent in the fourth quarter after a sluggish 1.3 percent in the January-March period.

The federal tax cut might also help by increasing gross domestic product by 0.4 percent this calendar year, and 0.7 percent in 2002, McDonough told a gathering of executives at a Mid-America Committee meeting.

"The Blue Chip forecast is that growth will recover in the latter part of this year and be reasonably robust next year. That is a reasonable forecast," said McDonough.

He called the Fed's rate cuts—which trimmed key short-term interest rates by a total of 2.5 percent—a significant contribution to growth but one that takes time to have an impact.

"There is a lag in monetary policy. We have got an awful lot of loosening in the pipeline."

But he noted that "exactly when it kicks is something that nobody is 100 percent sure about, including us." *AFP*

Amid slumping sales, Avaya cuts nearly 3,000 jobs

BASKING RIDGE, New Jersey—Telephone systems maker Avaya Inc. is eliminating nearly 3,000 jobs or 11 percent of its work force, as it accelerates restructuring because of slow sales.

Avaya, which was spun off by telecommunications giant Lucent Technologies last September, said late Tuesday that because of slumping customer purchases in late May and early June, it expected revenues to decline by 4 to 6 percent for its third fiscal quarter, which would end on June 30.

However, the Basking Ridge-based company expects earnings per share to approximately double compared to last year's third fiscal quarter.

Avaya's announcement came after the markets closed. Shares of Avaya were down 12 cents to close at $15 on the New York Stock Exchange. In extended trading, shares fell another $1.15, or 7.6 percent, to $13.85.

The stock has fallen about 26 percent since it was spun off by Lucent in October 2000.

Avaya also said it expected revenue for its fourth quarter to decline by 4 to 8 percent, assuming the economy would not deteriorate further.

A survey of Wall Street analysts by Thomson Financial/First Call expect the company to earn $1.18 a share in fiscal 2001, and $1.70 a share in fiscal 2002.

Avaya said its sales in May were lower than expectations across all but one product line.

To cut costs, the company is speeding up its restructuring plan to complete it by the end of fiscal 2002, a year early. The company plans to consolidate and restructure under-performing parts of its business to boost profitability. *AP*

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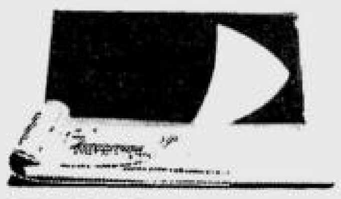

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Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested and qualified bidders to undertake the supply and delivery (on staggered basis for at least one (1) year) of:

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(as per AWWA B301-92)

Bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php200.00.

A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Conference Room of the Purchasing Department on June 26, 2001, Tuesday, at 2:00 p.m.

Bid Proposal shall be submitted at the Purchasing Department on or before 5:00 p.m. on July 04, 2001 (Wednesday).

(Sgd.) **LUIS M. Z. LERMA**
Manager, Purchasing Department

(PDI - June 14 & 15, 2001)

PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION (PEATC)
G/F Bayview International Towers III
Roxas Blvd Parañaque, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC) invites all interested bidders to prequalify and bid for the "Repaving/Resurfacing of Indicated Asphalt Bleeding, Cracking and Shoving Areas" within the R-1 Expressway (Coastal Road, Parañaque City).

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PEATC PBAC, G/F Bayview Int'l. Towers III, Roxas Blvd., Parañaque City from June 11-15, 2001. Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m on June 15, 2001.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Training Room, PEATC Corporate Office, G/F Bayview Int'l. Towers III, Roxas Blvd., Parañaque, Metro Manila.

Only pre-qualified bidders will be issued bid documents and allowed to participate in the bidding. Submission and opening of bids will be on June 16, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.

PEATC-PBAC reserves the right to review the qualifications of selected Bidders, subject to technical, financial and qualification criteria, reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any Bidder whose proposal evaluated by PEATC-PBAC is most advantageous to PEATC. The PEATC-PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the Bidders for any expenses or losses that maybe incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ERLINDA E. GONZALES
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - June 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested prospective bidders to prequalify and bid for the supply and installation of stainless steel railings and stanchion posts with chains for passenger queuing lanes from stations 1 (North Avenue) to 13 (Taft Avenue) of the Metrostar Express.

Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P200.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., June 28, 2001.

Bid documents are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

Only those who are pre-qualified by DOTC-MRT 3 PBAC will be invited to attend a pre-bid conference to be held on July 31, 2001 at the above-stated address.

Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's duly authorized representative who chose to attend at 2:00 p.m. on August 14, 2001 at Operations Space #3 (Conference Room) MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue, cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City.

The DOTC-MRT 3 Office reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - June 8, 9 & 14, 2001)

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ARTURO V. ALVAREZ

Of Noveleta, Cavite and Makati City

Chairman of the Board and President of AHESCOR

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 12, 2001 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife, **Peregrina**; children **Ric** and **Nitz Medina**, **Freddie** and **Luz Ceballos**, **Gil** and **Gemma**, and **Lorna**; grandchildren **Gio** and **Cherry**, **Gerard**, **Carlo**, **Chester**, **Garvey**, **JJ**, **Lara**, **Nikki**, **Godar** and **Kariz** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sancturio de San Antonio Capilla de San Francisco, Forbes Park, Makati City.

His remains will be brought to the Philippine Independent Church at Noveleta, Cavite on Saturday, June 16, 2001 at 6:00 A.M. Mass will immediately follow at 10:00 A.M. Cremation will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 2:00 P.M.

LOURDES LUCIANO OCAMPO

Peacefully joined her Creator
on June 13, 2001 at the age of 93.

HER FAMILY:

Husband : ***Fernando*** (†)
Children : ***Pandot***
Ed (†) *and* ***Lulu***
Oskie (†) *and* ***Marilou***
Piluchi *and* ***Ramon***
Sisters-in-law : ***Teresita Panlilio Luciano,***
Sister Mary Assumption, RGS *and*
Purita O. Gamboa

Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Nephews, Nieces, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel, Mount Carmel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Street, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 17, 2001 at the La Loma Cemetery, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

> **"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."**
>
> **2 Corinthians 5:8**

BIENVENIDO EVIOTA ELIAZO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 11, 2001, at the age of 62.

His bereaved wife, **Dolores Aguilar**; sisters **Corazon Balanon** and **Nillinda**; brothers **Nicolas, Jr.**, **Carlos** (†), **Pastor** (†), **Rodolfo** and **Ethelwoldo**; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C-1 Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred on early Friday morning, June 15, to the family residence at Poblacion, Candelaria, Zambalez.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 17, 2001 at the Roman Catholic Cemetery of Candelaria, Zambales after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

ALFREDO G. OCAMPO, SR.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 03, 2001 at the age of 87.

His bereaved wife **Rufina**; children **Jun**, **Gody** (deceased), **Boy**, **Jose**, **Ben**, **Jaime** and **Nene**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his home at No. 11 Crispina Ave., Las Piñas Village, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Sunday June 17, 2001, 2:30 p.m. at the Silangan Cemetery, Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite.

> I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
>
> **John 14:6**

NORMA S. DEL ROSARIO

of Quezon City & San Pablo, California, USA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 21, 2001 at the age of 66.

Her loving mother **Aquilina**; children **Chito**, **Willie**, **Eric**, **Monty**, **Monette**, **Raffy**; children-in-law **Thelma**, **Lyn**, **Cynthia**, **Lani**, **Ruvic** and **Coralee**; brother, sisters, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be brought to the Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City at noon on June 16, 2001.

Interment will follow the 9:00 a.m. Requiem Mass on June 17, 2001.

"You will forever be in our hearts, Daddy!"

RODRIGO A. INCIONG, Ph.D.

President, RAI Group of Companies
Former Professor, GAUF and FEATI University
Founding President, Federation of GAUF Alumni Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 12, 2001 at the age of 69.

His dearest wife **Nora Bacus**; children **Doris** and **Chris**, **Rod** and **Noemi**, **Matet** and **Ronald**, **Annie**, **Ruth** and **Nap**, **Liz** and **Biboy**; grandchildren **Nicole**, **Nigel**, **Sam**, **Jeremy**, **Arjay**, **Maxine**, **Kai-Kai**, **Kenneth**, **Rap-Rap**, **Paulo** and **Cathy**; brothers and sister, in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Hope Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels at # 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Daily prayers will be said at Arlington at 8:00 every evening.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 17, 2001 at the Eternal Gardens, Baisa, Caloocan City, immediately after the 1:00 pm Mass at Arlington Chapel.

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

SPECIAL PROJECT

6TH GRAPHIC EXPO 2001
CONVERGENCE AND CONNECTIVITY EXPO 2001

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
GRACE PENALES, Account Manager

GRAPHIC EXPO 2001

Ideal trade show for graphic industry professionals and businessmen involved in printing and publishing

THE GRAPHIC EXPO 2001 is based on a unique concept. It brings together complementary workflow processes — from digital photography, creative design, digital imaging & manipulation, to digital publishing and printing output-all under one roof and one marketplace. The convergence of state-of-the-art technology providers, software vendors, graphic art service providers, and industry experts make this show the ideal platform for sourcing, upgrading, and learning the latest trend and innovations in the industry. This integrated presentation concept is a passport to business synergies and interdisciplinary solutions.

Visitors of GRAPHIC EXPO enjoy direct access to a complete cross0section of graphic solutions and digital printing technologies. This Expo will highlight the breakthroughs in 'Print-On-Demand Publishing' as so far the cutting edge technology in digital printing arena. All these come in tune with the latest in technical trends and printing solutions. The Fair attracts high proportion of business professionals with last year's traffic registered more that 11,000 trade visitors in four (4) straight days. From exhibitor's viewpoint, there's no better platform for doing business

VISITOR'S PROFILE

28% - Design Studios, Ad Agencies, Photographers, Production Houses, Advertising, Suppliers, Digital Artists

28% - Businessman, Entrepreneurs, Top Corporations, Print Buyers

27% - Commercial Printers, Publishers, Screenprinters

15% - IT Professionals, Marketing & Advertising Executives

2% - Government, Educators, Students

EXHIBIT PROFILE

PrePress and Publishing

Digital Printing Equipment, Print-On-Demand Equipment, Computer hardware and Peripherals, Imagesetters and Scanners, PrePress Equipment, Plotters, Digital Duplicators, Number-

GRAPHIC/ p. B9

MESSAGES

WE are very pleased to stage for the first time the 'Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001' in conjunction with 6th Graphic Expo 2001 (focused on Digital Imaging, PrePress, Print Production, Web Publishing, Multimedia & Animation) as we foresee the development of information technology to close the loop in our workflow processess. Indeed, the whole gamut of our everyday work in publishing is virtually affected by internet and telecomputing technologies.

It is necessary that we hold the Convergence and Connectivity Expo back-to-back with Graphic Expo as these are complementary events that converge under one big project considering the influence of IT and wireless telecomputing technologies. These tools are emerging, if not, already here in the Philippine market, henceforth, we envision the convergence of technologies and its wireless applications to be the 'industry work standard' as the Philippines develops its IT infrastructure.

We sincerely thank our Corporate Sponsors, Exhibitors, Resource Speakers, and Trade Visitors in cooperating with us in this maiden event. As we gave birth to another IT trade show, we are now beginning to feel the truimphs of our difficulties in mounting first time projects to which we have placed our full trust and uncompromising belief in its concept as one event that carries social relevance and will result to greater impact to help build a critical mass of eFilipinos.

We hope to forge continued partnership with all of you.

Mabuhay!

NORELYN T. BABIERA
Vice-President
Fiera de Manila, Inc.
www.fmi.com.ph

DEAR Participants and Guests:

Technology has become an integral part of our daily lives, making events like Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001 not only relevant but also vital to our growth.

In this event, we welcome witnesses to the best and the latest in information technology and telecomputing products, services, and insights ever to be showcased to the public. I believe that this gathering will help enhance the Philippines IT and telecomputing sectors and increase the competitiveness of our country. It is my honor to have the opportunity to become a part of this important event.

In behalf of INQ7.net, I would like to commend everyone who took part in making this event a great success. Let us work together towards a more productive and wireless future.

My sincerest congratulations to you all!

DENNIS VALDES
President and CEO
INQ7.net

List of Exhibitors

1. Hewlett Packard Phils. Corp
2.Canon Marketing Phils. Inc.
3. Senco Link Technologies Inc.
4. Gakken (Philippines) Inc.
5. Kodak Philippines Ltd.
6. Epson Philippines, Inc.
7. Philippine Fuji Xerox
8. Multisiq, Incorporated
9. Digimac
10. TCI Graphics
11. Alser Technologies Corp.
12. William & Co. Phils., Inc.
13. Cardcraft Philippines
14. GMP Philippines
15. Sony Philippines, Inc.
16. LMK Commercial / Philmug
17. Island Graphic / Ige Ramos Design Studio
18. Chase Technologies
19. GTY International Corp.
20. Comglasco
21. Graficad Creation Inc.
22. Ynzal Marketing Corporation
23. Glee Electronics Inc.
24. Datacom Systems Corp. (SHARP)
25. Taytan International Corp.
26. Citibank
27. All Visual & Lights Systems
28. Nestor Distributors
29. eArt Philippines
30. Zone V Camera Club
31. Morning Planet
32. M-Graphics & Tool Box Design Studio
33. Club Panoly Resorts, Inc.
34. Lamco International Inc.
35. Globis Inc.
36. Accupoint
37. American Technologies Inc.
38. Computer Graphics Inc.

List of Exhibitors Convergence & Connectivity Expof2001

1. Metropolitan Computer Times
2.Psicom Publishing
3. Digital Filipino.com
4. INQ7.net
5. Philippine Daily Inquirer
6. Worldwideweb Corporation
7. Lamco International Inc.
8. Web Philippines Inc.
9. BPI Express Online
10. Bworldonline.com
11. Alfox.net
12. Standard Chartered Bank
13. Online Brands Ph
14. Findme.com
15. Systems Technology Institute
16. PhilBX
17. Philmetro.com
18. Nextel Communication

[illegible]

June 14, 2001, Product/Technology Presentations

11:00 : Online Brands Ph
1:30pm : All Visuals & Lights
2:30 : Kodak Philippines Ltd.
3:00 : BPD Express Online
3:30 : Epson Philippines Corp.

June 14, 2001, Seminar Program/Topics

AM : Integrating Print & Web Tools, XML Training, The Money making ABCs of Quick Print Business, The Impact of Mobile Communication in the New Economy, Guerilla Marketing for eCommerce Start-ups

PM : PDF Secrets for Print & Web, Modem, DSL, Cable, Modem or ISDN - Which is for me?, Designing Business Models for Wireless Global Economy, XML Training

June 15, 2001 Product/Technology Presentations

11:00am : Glee Electronics
11:30am : Fargo/GMP Philippines Inc.
12:30 : Online Brands Ph
1:00pm : LMK Commercial
1:30 : Lamco International
2:00 : Epson Philippines Corporation
2:30 : Philippine Fuji Xerox Corporation
3:00 : Hewlett Packard Philippines Corp.
3:30 : Kodak Philippines Ltd.
5:00 : Canon Marketing Corp.

June 15, 2001, Seminar Program/Topics

AM : Photoshop Power Short Cuts, Digital Photography: The Studio of the Future, Java Training, Putting Small Business on the Web, Website Dos and Donts

PM : Large Format Advertising, Java Training, Photoshop Power Short Cuts, Mobile Advertising: Current Technologies and Opportunities, Turning Mobile Internet Into Profit

June 16, 2001 Product/Technology Presentations

11:30 : GMP Philippines
12:30 : Online Brands Ph
1:00pm : LMK Commercial
2:00pm : Epson Philippines Corp.
2:30 : GMP Philippines Inc.
3:00 : Kodak Philippines Ltd.
3:30 : All Visual & Lights System
4:00 : Canon Marketing Philippines
4:30 : Online Brands Ph

June 16, 2001, Seminar Program/Topics

AM : Web Animation Essentials, Tools, and Techniques, Color Management and Scanning Techniques

PM : Just FLASH it!, Color Management and Scanning Techniques

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E-Media companies participate in Convergence Expo 2001

With today's convergence of technologies, people need not go far to acquire reliable information. With just one click, all the data you need to know will be readily available for you.

BusinessWorld Online, Inc., INQ7.net, Web Philippines, Inc., and WorldWideWeb Corporation participate in the Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001 on June 14 - 17 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. A four-day Trade Show of convergence products, 2-day Industry Conference, 2-day XML and JAVA Training Program and Internet Surfing will all be highlighted in the said event.

BusinessWorld Online and INQ7.net help businesses to find out how they can harness the potentials of electronic media by providing them quality information, goods and services through this new media technology. These online companies also launched their online services and make available electronic library to online subscribers.

The Convergence Trade Exhibit will showcase tools, peripherals, storefronts, solutions, equipment, electronic banking, internet service providers, content developers and web project consultancy firms.

Topics such as The Impact of Mobile Communication in the New Economy, Modem, DSL, Cable Modem or ISDN -Which is for me?, Designing Business Models for Wireless Global Economy, Guerilla Marketing for e-Commerce Start-Ups, Putting Small Business on the Web, Website Do's and Don'ts, Mobile Advertising: Current Technologies and Opportunities and Turning Mobile Internet Into Profit will all be given emphasis on the 2-day Industry Conference.

Learn more about the XML and JAVAscript in the Training Seminar that will tackle the basic concepts of How to Use XML and add Javascript to websites, what's possible with the latest browsers, what tools are available and what's on the horizon.

This event is also presented by Philippine Daily Inquirer, NexTel Communications, and The DigitalFilipino.com. For inquiries, please call: 896-0637, 986-0639, 899-6893, 752-3936, 751-5200. email: fiera@info.com.ph, emedia@info.com.ph

GRAPHIC EXPO 2001 . . .

(From page B8)

ing Machines, Stamping and Binding Equipments, Paper, Films, Inks and Toners

Graphic Imaging and Sign Making

Large Format Printers, Digital Colour Printing Devices, Inkjet and Colour Systems, Outdoor and Indoor Signs, Plastic, Vinyl, and Self-Adhesive Films, Hardware, Software and Peripherals, CADD and CAM Systems, Traffic Signages, Neon Signages, Inks and Chemicals

Digital Imaging (Digital Photography Studio)

Digital Cameras, Video Capture and Editing Equipment, Hardware, Software, Peripherals, Lighting Systems, Photographic Lenses, Filters, Accessories, Service Bureaus, Training Institute

Web Publishing

Hardware, Software, Peripherals; Desktop Printers, Internet Service Providers (ISP), Web Content Developers

Multimedia and Animation

Hardware, Software, Peripherals; Training Institute, Video Editing Services, Animation Studios, Interactive Media Producers, CD-ROM Publishers

MEET THE BLACK WORKHORSE.
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Dell Recommends Windows 2000 Professional for Business

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VISIT!

CONVERGENCE & CONNECTIVITY

Convergence & Connectivity Expo 2001

Philippine Trade Training Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
14 - 17 June 2001

A specialized exhibition and conference on connectivity, networking, internet, wireless telecom, ebusiness tools products, services, and integrated solutions in converged networks where one will have the chance to know more about the latest technologies, information, and solutions on the benefits of getting connected as we enter the wireless economy.

Conference Topics

June 14, 2001
- The Impact of Mobile communication in the New Economy
- Modem, DSL, Cable Modem, or ISDN - which is for me?
- Designing Business Models for Wireless Global Economy
- Guerilla marketing for eCommerce start ups

June 15, 2001
- Putting Small Business on the Web
- Website Do's and Dont's
- Turning Mobile Internet in to Profit
- Mobile Advertising: Current Technologies and Opportunities

Registration Fee: P2,200.00 per day
inclusive of snacks, conference kit and taxes

XML and JAVA Scripting Seminar

June 14 to 15, 2001 (2 Days Package)
This workshop will teach the concepts of XML and Javascript, how to use them to make web pages smarter, when and how to use XML and Javascript to the fullest capabilities. Attend this workshop if you are Webmasters who want to add interactivity to your sites, and designers who want to know what can be done with these technologies.

This workshop will help you learn:
- How to use XML and add Javascript to websites.
- What works and what doesn't with what browsers.
- What's possible with the latest browsers.
- What tools are available, and what are the right ones for you.
- How to use XML and Javascript to make your site worth visiting

Highlights of the Event

Exhibit on Internet technologies, Convergence Solutions, Wireless Application, Networking Products, Tools, Equipment, Software, Security, & Peripherals • Conference on the latest developments, relevant issues and trends in the wireless internet and eCommerce • XML and Java Scripting Intensive hands-on Training • Webcasting • Free Internet Surfing

Be part of this convergence event that will help you increase your productivity and business advantage!

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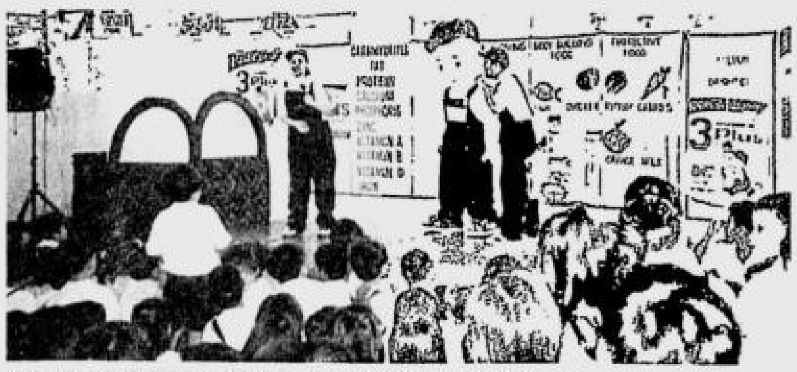
People, Events & Products



KINDERGARTEN NUTRITION PROGRAM

Dumex Philippines Inc. launched its operations and products in the Philippines last July 2000. Dumex brings with it 50 years of experience in infant and child nutrition in Asia. In its commitment to make children aware of the value of a well-balanced diet and proper nutrition, Dumex Philippines recently launched the Dumex 3Plus Kindergarten Nutrition Program (DKNP). This program introduces children aged 3 to 6 to an interactive program that teaches them the different kinds of food and its role in achieving optimal physical and mental growth. Above, 3Plus mascot Dex helps illustrate the different food groups.

PIZZA HUT endorser and popular star Diether Ocampo enjoys this unique and exciting new pizza called "The New Mexican Cheesy Crust Pizza." It's crispy cheddar baked on a mozzarella Stuffed Crust, topped with zesty salsa, spicy beef, sweet corn, fresh lettuce, crunchy nachos, and cheesy cheese sauce. The new Mexican Pizza promises to give you another reason to eat backwards. Call 911-1111 or visit your nearest Pizza Hut

PNB Gen: P18.8M in 4 months

PNB General Insurers Co. Inc., the wholly-owned non-life insurance subsidiary of the Philippine National Bank, posted a net income of P18.818 million for the first four months of the year ending April 30. This figure was 18 percent above target and 8 percent higher than the P17.457 million earned in the same period last year. Gross premiums totaled P87.745 million for the four-month period. According to PNB Gen president Jose B. Zuñiga, the higher net results can be traced to improved operational and underwriting efficiency leading to lower claims and lower administrative costs.

As part of its expansion and its objective of providing better service to its clients, Zuñiga also announced that PNB Gen will open another branch this June. PNB Gen-Angeles branch is the tenth branch in the PNB Gen network, in addition to branches in Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, La Union, Santiago (Isabela), Sta. Rosa (Laguna) and Tacloban, and will service the Central Luzon area.

Feliciano L. Miranda Jr., PNB president and PNB Gen's board chair, said that he is confident that PNB Gen will meet, if not exceed, the whole year target income of P74 million, 29 percent over 2000's actual net income of P57 million. PNB Gen is targeting a premium production of P342 million which is 12 percent higher than year 2000's production level of P305 million. Miranda further stated that PNB Gen, the most profitable local subsidiary of PNB, will receive an additional capital boost this year to further increase its underwriting capacity. PNB Gen presently has a net worth of P347 million, one of the highest in the industry.

PNB Gen has consistently attained a return on equity (ROE) of over 20 percent, well over the industry's 6 percent average. Since it started operations in 1992, PNB Gen has declared and paid to PNB P46.3 million in cash dividends and P152.2 million in stock dividends for its consistent excellent performance.

PNB Gen has recently launched new products such as Golfer's Comprehensive Insurance Plan, Gasoline Dealer's Insurance, Retail Store Insurance Package, and OFW's Accident Insurance Plan to further meet the needs of its increasing number of clientele. It has also launched a raffle promo called "Holiday Promo 2001" which rewards winning clients with free trips to foreign and local destina-

NEW HOUSE OWNER

Crown Asia-South turns over a 50-sqm Montana model house to buyer Enrico Gregorio and family. South's chief operating officer Rosario H. Javier and Ivy Isidoro, marketing team leader of Plantacion Meridienne, witnessed the turnover. Crown Asia is expected to hand over more houses this year as developments are now in full swing.

Veggie snacks in a snap

VEGETABLE lovers can now enjoy the full natural flavor of real vegetables with Fry & Pop's Vegetable Crackers. Recently introduced in the market, this product is perfect for busy people who need a quick-cook crispy hot snack for watching TV at home, *baon* for work or school, and entertaining guests during parties.

Vegetable Crackers is made using only choice spices for a totally unique taste. According to Fry & Pop Food Inc., a lot of research and quality checks go into the manufacturing of Vegetable Crackers. Fully automated production equipment and technology assure their customers of a superior product.

Vegetable Crackers is so easy to prepare. Once dipped in very hot oil, the chips start puffing in just eight seconds. Once strained, it stays crisp and crunchy longer. Now distributed nationwide, the product is fast gaining popularity in the market, both among chil-

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

WebSphere first software for web services

IBM announced the industry's first software enabled for web services.

Web services are emerging e-business applications that can connect and interact with one another on the Web more easily and efficiently, eliminating much of the time-consuming custom coding currently required in, for example, B2B environments. The more efficient integration is being driven by a wide range of new open Internet standards, which IBM helped develop and has incorporated into its new software.

The new standards will allow software developers to create new e-business applications that will enable to navigate, discover and interact with other applications on the Internet similar to the way people navigate, discover and interact with websites today. Web services are leading to a new phase in e-business in which the Internet will be driven increasingly by applications, which will lead to new levels of efficiency and productivity.

WebSphere Technology for Developers is the first software in the industry supporting the open standards necessary to develop and securely deploy web services. This includes Universal Description Discovery and Integration (UDDI), Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP), Java2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE), Web Services Description Language (WSDL), and enhanced integration of leading XML technologies.

"WebSphere provides us with Internet infrastructure software and development tools that incorporate the broadest range of open Internet standards in the industry," says Greg Olsen, chief technology officer, Extricity. "Because WebSphere is enabled with these open standards, it will enable Extricity to develop new Web services applications for B2B relationship management, which will take our customers to new levels of efficiency in e-business."

Jobs fair in Baguio

THE CITY government of Baguio and Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJH DevCo) invite all interested individuals to a jobs fair slated on June 13-16 at the Baguio City Hall, as part of the Independence Day celebration of the city.

Several positions will be made available for local and overseas employment. Destinations open for overseas employment include Hong Kong, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (Dubai and Abu Dhabi).

Individuals who wish to seek overseas employment are required to attend a two-hour Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) at the POEA office in Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City, on June 13 (9 a.m. to 11 a.m./1 p.m. to 3 p.m./3 p.m. to 5 p.m.).

For more information, please call the Camp John Hay environment and government affairs office at tel. nos. (074) 442-7015, or the PESO office at (074) 442-3939.

SUPER OXYGENATED WATER PROJECT

Public schoolchildren of Cabuyao will soon get a drink of relief, thanks to the launching of the super oxygenated water supply project at the Cabuyao Central Elementary School in Cabuyao, Laguna. The project utilizes processes that enhance the presence of dissolved oxygen that eliminates all forms of bacteria commonly found in water. The water supply system, for its part, is user-friendly because of its simple installation and operation, and displays rapid treatment turnaround time, making it ideal for use in existing water tanks. Cheering over glasses of the super oxygenated water is Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (third from left, front row), who partially funded the project; project developer and supplier Ang Chee Pheng, (second from left) chair and CEO of Act-Ion Water Technologies Pte. Ltd.; and officials from Cabuyao Central Elementary School and the mayor's office. At rear left is Bruce Davies, inventor of the system.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

EDITHA B. ESPEJON,
Petitioner,
- versus - **SSC CASE NO. 3-15000-2000**
DESIDERIA ESPEJON,
Respondent,
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x-----------------------------------x

SUMMONS

TO: EDITHA B. ESPEJON

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your answer to the filed by Editha B. Espejon, which in substance is a claim for SS benefits accruing from the death of SSS member DESIDERIO B. ESPEJON.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner at her address at Patria, Pandan, Antique and upon public respondent SSS thru the Senior Vice President of the Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, May 31, 2001.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI--June 14, 2001)

FORA OFFICERS INDUCTED

The Federation of Residents Association Inc. (Fora) recently inducted its officers and directors at the South Villa in San Juan, Metro Manila. Fora aims to promote and protect the rights of residents on issues such as zoning, taxes, peace and order, traffic and waste management. From left are Fora directors Edgar Krohn Jr. of Bel-Air Village, Fannie Castillo of Greenhills East, vice president Cynthia Moss of Philam Homes, Quezon City, directors Jose Sison of Ayala Heights Village, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board commissioner Francisco Dagñalan, president Reynaldo Almario of Xavierville I Subdivision, directors Rey Navarro of White Plains Subdivision and Mario Jalandoni of Mariana Neighborhood Association.

Cocolife surpasses P1-B goal

UNITED Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (Cocolife) joins the elite circle of life insurance companies which have broken the P1-billion mark in total premiums. Cocolife posted P1,000,168,000 in total premiums for 2000. This figure represents a 26-percent increase over 1999's total premium figure. Notably, new business income accounts for more than P300 million of this premium figure.

Lawyer Fred Tumacder, CEO and president of Cocolife, states, "This remarkable performance is a result of the concerted effort of the group marketing division, the individual marketing division, health care department and the Bancassurance department. The coconut farmers insurance also contributed to this milestone."

The group life held on to its premier position in the corporate market segment, closing more than 200 major accounts for 2000. Group accident and health surpassed its target premium when its affiliates - SMC and UCPB – transferred their employee HMO benefits to Cocolife.

The Bancassurance project also went full tilt in 2000. As the UCPB's insurance arm, Cocolife formed a complete unit to coordinate with UCPB and provided all training, promotions and marketing needs of the operation.

Cocolife also enhanced its customer service activities by putting up a client center for policyholders and clients. The company continues to take measures in maintaining its competitive leverage by continuously strengthening both external and internal processes, and by initiating training courses on marketing, technical and managerial skills.

To date, Cocolife still stands out as the only life insurance company in the Philippines to be certified as ISO 9002 compliant.

New Kotex 'breathable' panty liners

EVERY woman wants to stay clean and fresh everyday. Now, staying fresh is possible by using the new Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners, a quality product of Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI).

The new Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners is the first and only brand to come in handy, resealable purse packs. It is available in unique variants. Kotex Fresh regular (blue pack) provides a fresh and clean feeling. Kotex Fresh Scented (fuschia pack) gives that "just out of the shower" freshness. Kotex Fresh 100% Cotton (green pack) provides ultimate comfort. Kotex Fresh Longer & Wider (lavender pack) gives extra protection, and Kotex Fresh Ultrathin (yellow pack) provides discreet protection.

Unlike other napkins, the new Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliner variants keep their shape even during intense physical activities. Specially created for the modern Filipina, Kotex leaves them feeling fresh, cleaner, secure, comfortable and confident all day long every day.

With better fluid absorbency, the new Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners has an adhesive strip that contains tips on how to take better care of one's health.

The new Kotex Fresh Breathable Pantiliners is now available at your favorite supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

PSCM skin awareness campaign

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Cutaneous Medicine, Inc. (PSCM), a non-government organization of legitimate dermatologists will be holding nationwide free skin clinics for the whole month of June, as part of its Skin Awareness Program. According to Dr. Evangeline Handog, the society's President, free consultations with medicines have been scheduled in various health centers, remote towns and even on private clinics of their fellow members. PSCM is a member of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and League of Asian Dermatological Societies (LADS). It is also an affiliate of Philippine Medical Society (PMA). For more information, please call the PSCM Secretariat at 524-52-96.

New wines from Maxxium

CHRIS Munsell, a winemaker from Peak Wines International based in California, was in town recently to promote Geyser Peak and Barwang wines. The wine-tasting sessions were held at the New World Hotel and The Shangri-la Hotel Makati.

Bert Monteron and his management team of Maxxium Philippines, the local distributors of the wines, helped entertain VIP guests, wine connoisseurs and the media.

Geyser Peak was founded in 1880. In 1998, Geyser Peak was named winery of the year by "Wine and Spirits" magazine.

City Lite 88.3 presents Richard Merk

CITY LITE 88.3 presents City Jazz Lounge with Richard Merk at 10 p.m. tonight in Gillespie's at Shangri-La's Edsa Plaza Hotel. The event is brought to you by Total Petroleum.

BOMBO RADYO PHILIPPINES
CONTRACT SIGNING
MAY 30 2001 VIA MARE GREENBELT, MAKATI CITY

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

The biggest names in the advertising world came for the contract signing of the longest-running radio promo in broadcast history – Starvaganza Na, Bombonanza Pa Year VII of Bombo Radyo Philippines. Shown at the contract signing were (from left) Herman Z. Basbaño, AVP/COO of Bombo Radyo Philippines, Michael de Castro, senior media manager of Jimenez D' Arcy, Katrina Ortigas, brand assistant, Safi; Louie Rogacion, EVP-media, Aspac; Anita Kaw, president/CEO, Universal Canning, Inc.; Javy Mantecon, VP-marketing, LBC; Sonny Dancel, sales advertising officer of Kawasaki and Rogelio Florete, Jr., executive vice president of Bombo Radyo Philippines. The signing took place at a luncheon at Via Mare Restaurant in Makati City last May 30. A total of P25 million in cash and prizes will be given away.

Ponkana
TANGERINE DRINK MIX

LEO LOVES PONKANA

Ponkana welcomes its newest endorser, Leo Martinez, in a contract signing with Sugarland executives and representatives from The Sinson Lascano Group Advertising. Seated are (from left) Weena Marasigan, group brand manager; Vincent Concio, sales and marketing head; Brittany Herell; Leo Martinez; Pacifico Castaneda, VP-LTDI, VP Operations SBC; and Gina Valenciano Martinez. Standing, from left, are Kristine Labao, Ponkana brand manager; Bong Figueroa and Bob Cepeda of SLG Advertising; and director Mae Paner.

IABC INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz (far left) inducts the new officers and executive board members of the International Association of Business Communicators during ceremonies held at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Sworn into office were (from left) Rey Anthony G. David, executive board member; Veronica L. Tapia-Merk, president; Bong Osorio, executive vice president; Cosette Romero, vice president for finance; Arturo Cariaga, executive director; Gretchen Recto, Ben Milano, Elpi O. Cuna, Mila Llorin and Al Ballesca, executive board members. The local chapter of IABC is composed of senior communications professionals from the country's top corporations.

09PRSP NEW PRSP BOARD

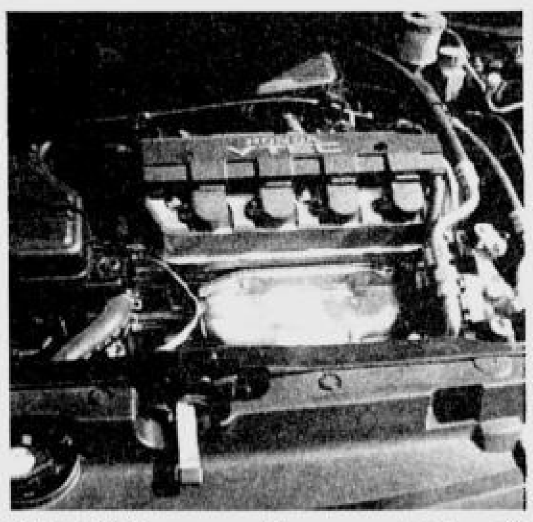
Supreme Court Justice Artemio V. Panganiban (left) inducts the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) directors and officers for 2001-2002. From left is ex-officio Roel S. Ramirez, APR, Development Bank of the Philippines; president Honesto M. Isleta, APR, Orosa Group of Companies; internal VP Eduardo S. Alcaraz, ESA Consultants; external VP Cynthia J. Gruet of Philippine Savings Bank; secretary Lourdes S. de Guzman of College Assurance Plan; treasurer Juris U. Soliman of Cemex Philippines; internal auditor Ma. Victoria C. Medina of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation; directors Rita R. Festin of Asian Development Bank, Edith B. Sola, APR of Mediamix International Systems Inc./Worldcom; and adviser Evelyn M. del Rosario, APR of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Director Ma. Amylyn S. de Quiros, APR of Full Circle Communications, is not in photo.

HONDA CIVIC

Big and beautiful?

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY VERNON B. SARNE

HONDA'S marketing tagline for the new Civic is: "It's big. It's beautiful." If you're selling a new car to a market known to put too much premium on good looks, you don't begin your sales pitch by proclaiming it's big—unless you're selling a bus. Of course, extra cubic inches are a plus, but you don't make measurements the focal point of your marketing campaign. Honda did try to mention the Civic is beautiful, but it truly sounds like a mere afterthought to us.



THE CIVIC comes with a new 1.6-liter 16 valve SOHC EFI in-line 4 VTEC powerplant

THE CLARION stereo unit with an in-dash CD player

So is the Civic really big? Yes and no. Yes if you mean interior space. In fact, the interior is the thing being referred to in the "It's big" part of the tagline. How bigger? To be exact, an additional 2.3 cubic feet of space compared to the previous model's. This is the new Civic's chief selling point.

Honda gave the new Civic extra cabin room by means of clever engineering. Honda had to dump double control arms in favor of the more space-efficient MacPherson struts for the front suspension. They also relocated the power steering assembly and tightly packaged several mechanical components. The roof was made taller and the innovative flat rear floor is being introduced here in the Civic for the first time. The result is big—literally.

No, the Civic is not really big if you're referring to its exterior dimensions. In fact, it's nearly the same size as its predecessor. The new Civic is about 2 inches taller, 15 millimeters shorter, and 20 millimeters wider.

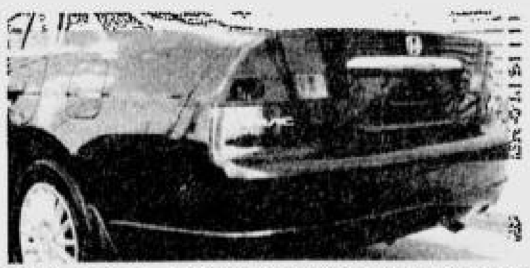
Now is the Civic beautiful? Depending on the beholder, the new Civic looks either sporty or conservative. With a front that tends to resemble that of the old model, the styling is rather too temperate, even bordering on geeky. The exterior design's saving grace is found in the rear. We even think that from the rear quarter angle, the Civic somewhat resembles a BMW 3-series. No kidding.

Those who expected a radical styling for the new Civic—in an S2000 kind of way—were surely disappointed. Let's just say Honda played it safe. When you're redesigning a car that has sold more than 10 million units since its introduction in 1973, you really have to be careful how you do it. After all, you don't want to rock the boat too much.

Engine, of course, has always been a focal point in all Honda vehicles. This time, the Civic comes with a new 1.6-liter 16-valve SOHC EFI in-line-4 VTEC3 powerplant. This so-called three-stage variable valve timing motor jacks up the Civic's maximum output to 130 hp while redlining at 6,600 rpm. Both the engine and the drivetrain are still Honda-smooth, and the ride is still Honda-supple despite the suspension downgrade.

Among other new features is a completely redesigned instrument panel. But we have to say that the Clarion stereo unit with an in-dash CD player ticks us off. No matter what the body color of your unit is, this audio unit—found on the VTi variant—always comes in translucent green, which, if you ask us, is a bit too juvenile. The Kenwood car audio found on the higher-end VTi-S is without a doubt much better-looking. And it even plays MP3-encoded CDs.

Other upgrades on the VTi-S are antilock brakes and dual front airbags.



THE REAR: where you'll find the exterior design's saving grace

It's too early to tell if the new Civic will have the kind of success the old model enjoyed. We can only gauge its true market strength once its new rivals arrive. The new Nissan Sentra was launched yesterday, while the new Toyota Corolla should be here pretty soon.

Until then, we'll have to make do with a big and not-so-beautiful Civic.

"IT'S Big. It's Beautiful," says the marketing tagline

FAST FACTS

HONDA CIVIC

Type:	Front-wheel 4-door compact sedan
Engine:	1.6-liter 16-valve SOHC EFI in-line-4 VTEC3
Maximum power:	130 hp @ 6,600 rpm
Maximum torque:	14.9 kg-m @ 5,000 rpm
Transmissions:	5-speed manual; 4-speed automatic
Dimensions (L x W x H):	4.44 m x 1.72 m x 1.46 m
Wheelbase:	2.62 m
Front suspension:	Strut-type with stabilizer bar
Rear suspension:	Double wishbone
Brakes:	Ventilated discs in front; drums in rear
Safety:	Side impact beams; child safety locks; ABS and dual front airbags in the VTi-S
Wheels and tires:	15-inch alloys; 185/65 R15
Seating capacity:	5
Prices:	P733,000 (manual VTi); P768,000 (automatic VTi); P808,000 (automatic-only VTi-S)

Hyundai's Santa Fe at Car Option

IT'S been quite some time that a good compact SUV or Sport Utility Vehicle appeared in the market.

Dream no more because the latest innovation from Hyundai, the Santa Fe promises to blur the line between off-road freedom and on-road civility. With all its new high-tech features, the new recreational vehicle from the maker of the hottest selling Starex offers the best of both worlds for the all-around driving enthusiast.

Initially available only at Car Option on Quezon Avenue, the Hyundai Santa Fe recently topped the influential crash test survey carried out by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in the United States.

In the 40 miles per hour front offset collision, the Santa Fe earned an overall good rating with top marks for its structural safety cage, head restraints, other restraints and injury measurements to the occupant's chest and legs.

Available in 2.4 and 2.7 V-6 DOHC engines, the new SUV gives you an adrenaline pump while driving with a displacement of 2,351 and 2,656, respectively with a compression ratio of 10.0:1; the cylinder block for the 2.4 is iron while the 2.7 is aluminum with multipoint fuel injection system and a fuel tank capacity of 65 liters for long drives.

The Santa Fe only comes with automatic transmission, and like the Pajero, it has a manual shift sports mode, called the H-matic. Moreover, the -computer controlled Hivec (Hyundai Intelligent Vehicle Electric Control) senses the degree of slope in the road and changes gears accordingly automatically. The Santa Fe comes with state-of-the-art electronic controls technology. It is 4,500 mm long, 1,845 mm wide and 1,730 mm high and bigger than other 4x4s.

Driving the Santa Fe, according to Car Option manager Peter Nolasco, is comparable to sitting inside luxury sedans with the all-new Macpherson strut front suspension and double suspension wishbone at the rear. It can seat five in absolute comfort plus two at the foldable third seat and leaves plenty of room in the rear luggage compartment.

The exterior of this SUV will make you proud as an owner with the distinctive hood character lines that set it apart from the crowd, projecting a strong muscular image. The underbody skid plate, meanwhile, is neatly integrated into the front bumper, the underbody skid plate affords protection and a rugged stylish look to the front end. It thus helps protect against debris when motoring across rugged terrain.

The large circular fog lamp of the Santa Fe is neatly integrated into the bumper, flanks the lower aperture and gives a balanced, solid SUV-like appearance. Equipped with depowered airbags for the driver and all its passengers, riding the Santa Fe gives you peace of mind plus the double differential unit that ensures 60:40 torque distribution between the front and rear axles for maximum stability and traction under adverse road condition.

Looking inside the Sante Fe is like looking into the car of the future with its beautifully sculpted control panel that incorporates switches to power windows, central door locking systems and side mirrors. With a digital multimeter system for the ultimate driving sophistication and an eight CD changer stereo system, driving around the city will be a breeze especially with its full automatic climate control system that can make occupants as warm as a toast or as cool as a cucumber or something in-between. Just set the desired cabin temperature and the system will automatically maintain it.

Take a look at the latest Hyundai SUV at Car Option and bring one home.

DEFLECTOR®

Weather Guard / Sunvisor

SPORTS TYPE - Width Range: 11-14 cms.
(Others 8 - 10 cms. only)

The only Sunvisor brand in the market made of Optical Grade Acrylic Coated w/ Anti-UV Protection. OEM supplier to these car models: (Taiwan) HONDA, MAZDA-FORD, MITSUBISHI, NISSAN & TOYOTA.

Will not warp, crack or fade • No rattle at high speed
Will not damage window glass channel, rubber weather strip

ALSO AVAILABLE:
PLATE SECURITY COVER

	DEFLECTOR	vs.	OTHERS
	6 pcs./set		6 pcs./set
Front Frame	Stainless SS 304		None
Back Plate	ABS Plastic		None
Center	UV Coated Acrylic		Ordinary Plastic

STAINLESS SS 304 GRADE

PEC • 999

- With the Highest Quality, Optical Grade Acrylic
- U.V. Stabilized, withstood exposure to outdoor Weather and Sun Rays
- Remarkably Resistant To Heat & Ultra-Violet Gamma Rays
- Will not Warp nor become Brittle that Cracks
- Fade Proof! --even After 8 Years of continuous exposures to sunlight

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO DO THIS TEST:
Press a lighted cigarette against the surface until the cigarette extinguishes itself. The cigarette will leave a burn mark on ordinary plastic sunvisors. But not on DEFLECTOR!

ORDINARY PLASTIC
AFTER CIGARETTE TEST: Burned/damaged permanently

DEFLECTOR
AFTER CIGARETTE TEST: Absolutely no ugly char or burn

SUPERIOR QUALITY AT VALUE COST
AVAILABLE AT REPUTABLE OUTLETS NATIONWIDE
FOR DEALERSHIP: PEC - Fax: 743-7435

MDPPA

Click that Camera Now & Join
ASIAN MOTORCYCLE SAFETY PHOTO CONTEST
and be the Gold Award winner of a trip to Japan plus a pocket money of US$700 w/ free hotel accommodation for 7 days and a chance to visit the Tokyo Motorshow 2001 this October

Think Safety
Ride Safely
FAMI Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries

Photography Contest

EXTENDED UP TO JULY 31, 2001

MDPPA

Silver award - compact camera
Bronze award - portable CD Player
Effort award - wrist watch
(Each participant will receive free T-shirt)

CONTEST MECHANICS

Contest theme :
THINK SAFETY-RIDE SAFELY

- The contest is open to any individual (amateur and professional photographers)
- Contestants must be 18 years old and above
- Entry must promote safety as the first concern
- It must visually express the enjoyment of safe motorcycle riding
- Photos must "not" show tricycles, other three wheelers and three riders in one motorcycle
- No additional parts adaptation only originally manufactured models are allowed
- Pictures must be original and must not have been published before in any publication or form
- Submit two (2) copies of 5R color or black & white picture including the negatives
- Indicate title of the picture, shot specifications and shooting location
- Each participant can submit five (5) entries for the contest
- Participants must use Cubs and Scooters Models only
- No Digital cameras, photos taken by digital cameras will be disqualified
- Participants must have valid passport

All entries must be submitted together with the following personal information
1. Complete name
2. Complete home address and tel. nos.
3. Complete business/office address and tel. nos.
4. Contestants' birth date
5. Contestants' signature
6. One 2" x 2" colored picture

- June 30, 2001 - Deadline of submission of entries
- July 18, 2001 - Selection of qualifying entries
- July 27, 2001 - Finalists will be judged
- August 17, 2001 - Awarding and announcement of the grand prize winners
- August 20, 2001 - Announcement of grand prize winners through newspapers
- October 2001 - Scheduled flight of the grand prize winner to Japan via Singapore
- Winners will be notified through the mails and will be published in the leading newspapers
- Prizes should be claimed within sixty (60) days from the date of notification
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days are deemed forfeited in favor of MDPPA
- All winning entries will be exclusively owned by MDPPA and may use them in whatever manners they wish to
- All employees of MDPPA member companies are disqualified from joining the contest
- Coverage of the contest will be nationwide

Best Photographer will be awarded a free 7 days trip to Japan via Singapore with all expenses paid plus US$700.00 pocket money

(NOTE: Prizes are not convertible to CASH)

Criteria for judging		
Visual appeal / Impact	-	30%
Relevance to theme	-	30%
Creativity / originality	-	20%
Quality of photo	-	20%

Sponsored by:
Shell
MOTOLITE MCB MOTORCYCLE BATTERY

Entries should be sent to:
MDPPA Safety Riding on two-Wheels Photo Contest
MDPPA Secretariat c/o CAMPI Office
Suite 1206, 12th flr Jollibee Center, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

FAMI consists of MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATIONS in
INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN, THAILAND

Conquering the road with Shogun

BUYING a new motorcycle can be fraught with interesting surprises. But it can also come with problems we can all do without. So how do we avoid its pitfalls? The solution lies in part with going for a line of motorcycles made by motorcycle manufacturers that have continued to live up to the expectations of discriminating customers. One such company is Suzuki Motors Corp. with 49 years of experience in manufacturing 4-stroke and 2-stroke motorcycles and is known all over the world for its superior engineering and designs that blaze trails for the future.

Suzuki Philippines recently unveiled its newest 4 stroke, 110 cc, solo motorcycle, fittingly called Shogun, the Japanese term for a general of a great army, and it's not difficult to see why.

Modern and sleek, Suzuki Shogun boasts not only of a wind-breaking aerodynamic body design, but of a powerful 4-stroke 110-cc engine with twin dome combustion chamber (TDCC) for high performance with less fuel consumption, advanced lubrication cooling system and a sporty muffler, to keep the engine sound level to a minimum. Its superior suspensions are likewise designed to support heavy loads and ensure stable traction and especially designed sports tire tread for more constant contact with the road.

Indeed one becomes all the more impressed with the Shogun's features after putting it to a rigid endurance test. Traveling the expanse of Manila-Bondoc-Manila and Manila-Leyte-Manila and its varying road conditions recently, the Shogun successfully passed the roadworthiness test without experiencing any breakdown. At high altitude, the Shogun could put out sufficient power to tractor up a hill smoothly, and even with an extra passenger, it was easy to maneuver in and out of traffic because of its quarter turn throttle for quick response, and an inner handle bar cushion, for less friction and vibration on long rides.

What's more, the Suzuki Shogun is equipped with ergonomic gauge display so that anyone driving it need not unnecessarily keep their eyes off the road. The built-in one of a kind foldable basket especially comes in handy for knickknacks we carry around with us.

conquer the road.

SUZUKI Shogun

It's not actually pushing it then to say that Suzuki Shogun, the only 2001 solo model in the market today, is as good a deal as it gets. Available in two models (the FD 110X that is equipped with drum brake and the FD 110XS with disk brake), this road machine should be worth checking out if you wish to conquer the road.

Caltex introduces Xpress Lube

CALTEX introduces Xpress Lube, an efficient, professionally run Lube Center that caters to the busy, on-the-go motorist.

Today's urbanites are always on the move, on the go. Most do not have the time to have their cars tuned up, to have their engines thoroughly checked, to have well-maintained cars.

Now, Caltex launches the Xpress Lube, one-stop, sure-service-in-a-rush lube bay. With 26 outlets strategically located nationwide and 24 more to open before the year ends, the Xpress Lube is the only and fastest growing professionally run lube center in the country. The Xpress Lube centers are run by mechanics, dealers and supervisors who underwent rigorous and intensive training at the Caltex Training Center.

The Caltex Training Center is one of its kind in the country. Caltex Lubricants is investing to develop a training center to cater and to address the needs of both dealers and participants. It can house up to 20 participants to accommodate the provincial dealers and participants. It has trained more than 200 participants in Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, Cabanatuan and Pampanga.

The Xpress Lube features state-of-the-art equipment that pass through meticulous and regular supervisory quality control checks that ensure its durability and reliability. According to Xpress Lube category manager Arrow Armeña, "Quality control is the first order at Caltex, and Xpress Lube is not an exception." The equipment is enhanced by a squeaky-clean environment that further puts the motorists at ease.

And to make things easier for the consumer, Xpress Lube category manager Lorna de Jesus beams with pride as she describes the use of Xpress Lube packages. This is similar to preselected meal packages in your favorite fast-food place. Now, motorists do not have to be burdened with the additional headache of what service they should avail of. There are five packages to choose from, with each having different kinds of oil types and service packages. The flagship brand of Caltex, the Havoline energy, is included in one of the packages. "This," she says, "is for gasoline engines, and is of higher grade than the ordinary engine oil because of its unique feature, a fuel-saving engine oil." But one can still opt for the thorough, 22-point preventive maintenance check that is a must every once in a while for every vehicle. But waiting need not to be a hassle, for the Xpress Lube mechanics emphasize on efficiency, but sure service.

Another innovation complementing the Xpress Lube centers is the use of the Xpress Lube Card, which can be availed of for a minimum price of P100. Cardholders are entitled to an automatic 10-percent discount on oil packages and 5 percent on other services.

Since its soft launch last year, a lot of good feedback has been received by Caltex Xpress Lube. Husband and wife team of Andoy and Joy Tan, dealers of Caltex in Quezon City, expressed satisfaction in having Caltex Xpress Lube as part of their service station. "Customers say that they are impressed by the professional approach of our personnel. We now have a wider range of services to offer that satisfy the needs of our customers. Thanks to the training of Caltex Xpress Lube, sales definitely went up!" And in their own words, Caltex Xpress Lube means, "Xtra Service!"

Zigzagging motorcycles on the tollway

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

FOR MANY years now, motorcycle riders have been seeking permission to use the North and South Luzon tollways. But their lobbying efforts to scrap a law banning motorcycles from the tollways have failed so far.

The riders of big bikes must have got their hopes up earlier this year when a motorcycling enthusiast, Luis Sison, was appointed president of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), which manages and operates the Metro Manila tollways. However, I have heard Mr. Sison say that for reasons of public safety, he will not allow motorcycles on the tollways.

Mr. Sison may be unaware that motorcycles invaded the North Luzon tollway on at least one occasion recently, when he was already PNCC prez. A reader forwarded to this column a letter from a motorist who witnessed the incident: The motorist, whose name I will not publish pending his approval to do so, wrote that on Friday, May 19, at around 6:30 in the morning, motorcyclists wearing jackets with the "Mad Dog" logo were escorted by TMG motorcycles and a patrol car into the Balintawak North expressway. ("Mad Dog" is a cruising motorcycle club whose members own and drive Harley Davidsons and other makes with displacements of at least 400 cc.)

The motorist saw no problem with that since the motorcyclists would be escorted while using the expressway. But once they reached the Malinta exit, where traffic usually builds up due to the narrowing of the tollway from four lanes to two, the big bikes started "zigzagging" in and out of traffic. The escorts couldn't control the zigzagging of the bikes, our motorist observed.

Apparently, from that point on, "each bike was on its own to reach its next destination," he continues. He saw a group at the Shell station on the northbound lane of the highway prior to the Sta. Rita exit and another group at the Dolores Junction in San Fernando, Pampanga, still escorted by the TMG. Whether this was the same group he saw at the Shell station and where they went next, the motorist, who was on his way to Bataan, doesn't know.

On his way back to Manila that same day at around 4:45 p.m., the motorist saw two big bikes on the northbound lane of the North Luzon tollway. The motorcyclists were unescorted.

"I have no problem with big bikes using the expressway ONLY IF they are escorted and use the expressway the way it should be used," the letter writer concludes. "I'm not saying that car drivers religiously obey highway traffic rules. There are slow-moving vehicles, overspeeding vehicles, vehicles without taillights, vehicles without headlights and vehicles using the shoulder. These are situations the PNCC should patrol. What I'm saying is reckless car/jeep/truck drivers plus reckless bikers result in additional accidents. With the road accidents that we are having on the expressway right now, we cannot afford to have another source of accidents (zigzagging) if these highways are not properly used."

Ironically enough, the Mad Dogs were featured in the Sunday BIZ section of this paper last Sunday. The Mad Dog club was depicted as a civic-spirited "quality group" whose members are responsible drivers and who, "under all that leather, are people dedicated to driving right." If this is so, why were Mad Dogs observed breaking formation and zigzagging on the North Luzon tollway last month?

The incident raises another question: Does the PNCC allow motorcycles on the tollway as long as they are "escorted"? This neutralizes the motorcycle ban. As the saying goes, the exception makes the rule.

* * *

NM, NOT LB-FT. In this column last May 31st ("The All-Around Ultimate Driving Machine"), it should have been 245 Nm of torque, not 245 lb-ft @ 3500 rpm. Thanks to reader Jodee Guzon for pointing out the mislabeling.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: I haven't lost my mind. It's backed up on disk somewhere.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

OUTBACK Libis' carpark was filled with Auss'm Mercedes-Benz cars during the Weekend Pit Stop with the Mercedes Benz Club of the Philippines.

Mercedes-Benz Club joins 'Weekend Pit Stop'

OUTBACK Restaurant continues its "Weekend Pit Stop" with the Mercedes-Benz Club of the Philippines. Held at the parking lot of Outback Restaurant Libis in Quezon City, the Auss'm event was capped off with lots of food and beer for friends and guests and prizes for the Car Show winners.

Declared "Outback Car of the Night" was the 1964 250SE Mercedes-Benz of Danbde Yaptinchay. Placing second and third, respectively, were the cars of Kitchie Libunad and Manolet Ramos.

The Mercedes-Benz Club gave out its own awards. Yaptinchay's car likewise won the Pre-1975 category with the cars of Noel Rivera and Willie Malay copping second and third, respectively.

Winners of the other categories are as follows: S-Class—Ricardo Carballo (champion), Mario Guanzon and Frank Koh (runners-up); SL-Class—Noel Rivera (champion), Koh and Geo Gregorio (runners-up); 123 Coupé—Alfie Salvador (champion), Mateo and Martin Bagsic and Cesar Martinez (runners-up); 123 Sedan—Salvador (champion), Manolet Ramos and Jun Lopez (runners-up); 123 Wagon—Tippee Yaptinchay (champion), Chito Mendoza and John Limcangco (runners-up).

The other awardees were Andros Villaroza (champion), Junnie Crisostomo and Geo Gregorio (runners-up) for the 124 Subclass category; Chijo Mauleon (champion), Nelson Reynoso and Yugi Antonio (runners-up) for the 20i Subclass division; and Mauleon (champion), Salvador and Yaptinchay (runners-up) for the Modern class.

Ford Phils. opens Davao dealership

FORD Group Philippines continues to expand its dealership network with the formal opening of Ford Davao. Located along Kilometer 6, Lanang in Davao City, it brings the Ford brand of quality service and tough line of products to the Mindanao region.

The new dealership, set on 5,000 square meters of land, has the Ford touch and incorporates features designed to make customers feel comfortable and keep bringing them back.

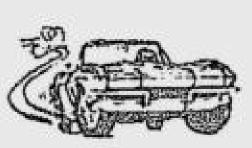
Customers who wish to drive through the dealership for a quick fix can enjoy a cup of coffee or tea at the dealership's espresso bar or a good movie at the mini-theater. Those who stop by for a longer chat can sit back and get all cozy and comfy at the customer's lounge. The lounge is strategically located and allows a full view of the service area including the interactive bay where vehicles are initially received.

"We are pleased to offer the absolute best in quality products, service and convenience," said Maribel Chua, general manager of Ford Davao.

Ford's commitment to customer safety

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza



I GOT sick for almost three weeks and I thank the numerous concern I received while I was under the weather. Am not really that fully recovered yet. But I need to recapture the routine now or I'll never recover my wits at all.

So, I'm revving up the engine this very minute.

* * *

There were 27 e-mails while I was away. Here's one, from Maricar Cristobal-Parco of Ford Motor. It is an explanation of Ford's move to recall Firestone tires from its vehicles:

Ford Motor Co. has said it will replace all 13 million Firestone Wilderness AT tires on its vehicles.

Ford's action, which the company described as precautionary, is based on analysis of data on the actual road performance of these tires, comparisons with the performance of comparable tires by other tire makers, a review of information developed by and received from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and extensive laboratory and vehicle testing.

The company said that many of the nonrecalled Wilderness AT tires on the road today appear to perform substantially better than the tires recalled last year. However, analysis of real world performance data, information from the NHTSA and lab and vehicle testing indicate that some of the nonrecalled Wilderness AT tires will probably experience elevated failure rates at some time in the future.

Specifically, the company's decision to replace all Wilderness AT tires on its vehicles is based on several factors, including:

- **Field data, which is real world tire performance data, recently received from Firestone showed that failure rates had increased for some of the Wilderness AT tires. Projections indicate that the failure rates, while still relatively low compared with tires recalled last year, could reach unusually high levels in the future.**
- **Information shared by the NHTSA showed that failure rates in actual road performance for many of the nonrecalled Wilderness AT tires were measurably worse than comparable tires from other manufacturers.**
- **Laboratory and vehicle testing by Ford shows that tire design and variations in physical characteristics of the nonrecalled Wilderness AT tires make them less durable than comparable tires from other manufacturers. The comparable tires include Goodyear tires on more than 500,000 Explorers. These test results are consistent with the NHTSA information and the real world data described above.**

Given the consistency among results from Firestone, the NHTSA and Ford's own data, the company concluded that it does not have sufficient confidence in the future performance of some of the Wilderness AT tires and that it will take the precautionary measure of replacing all Wilderness AT tires on its customers' vehicles.

* * *

William Clay Ford Jr., chair of Ford Motor Co., said the announcement to replace Wilderness AT tires "reflects our deep-seated conviction that customer safety always comes first. The actions of Ford's people and its partners, including our dealers, employees, tire suppliers and independent tire retailers, are true to what's at the core of our value system at Ford Motor Co.—nothing is more important than the safety of our customers. The decisions announced today have my full support and that of the entire board."

Jacques Nasser, president and chief executive officer of Ford Motor Co., said: "Our unequivocal commitment to our customers is the core value of Ford Motor Co. Since last year, we have closely monitored field data from Firestone, worked closely with the NHTSA, and conducted extensive laboratory and road testing. Taken together, all the data and analysis do not give us sufficient confidence in the future durability and performance of the nonrecalled Wilderness AT tires on our vehicles. While some of the tires we are replacing do not have a substantial failure risk, we are offering to replace all Wilderness AT tires to avoid any confusion among our customers and eliminate any doubt about the quality of their tires. There are early warning signs about these tires, and we will not ignore them."

* * *

Ford will be replacing twice as many tires as last year, and the company is working with other major tire manufacturers to expand the supply of replacement tires as rapidly as possible.

Most Wilderness AT tires are found on the following Ford vehicles: Explorer, Expedition, Ranger and some F-150 pickup trucks. More than 80 percent of the tires in question are on Explorer.

Ford also announced that it was suspending production of certain vehicle lines in order to make more tires available for the Wilderness AT replacement project. Specifically, Ford will take two down weeks at the Twin Cities, MN and Edison, NJ Ranger assembly plants. The company will also take one down week of Explorer Sport, Explorer Sport Trac and 2002 Explorer production at the Louisville, KY assembly plant.

* * *

Ford previously has announced several initiatives to safeguard its customers and to work closely with the tire industry and government safety authorities to ensure tire safety. These initiatives include extending the warranty on Ford vehicles to include tires and offering built-in tire pressure monitoring systems on some Ford vehicles. Ford also has worked with the tire industry to develop and implement an "early warning system" to detect the first signs of tire defects on vehicles already on the road.

* * *

US Department of Transportation data demonstrate that for more than 10 years, the Explorer consistently has ranked at or near the top in safety among the SUVs in its class. In addition, 2.9 million Goodyear tires on Explorers have performed with industry leading safety for more than 500,000 customers and their families, traveling an estimated 25 billion miles.

Ford will take a charge of $2.1 billion (equivalent to $1.10 per share) in the second quarter to cover the costs of replacing the tires. Effective immediately, the company's share repurchase program will be suspended. This will further reduce full year earnings by about $0.10 per share.

* * *

So there. One thing I like in America is its adherence to the saying, "The customer is always right."

But, hey, Ford has more—the safety of its customers.

Here's to Ford.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **When you are not feeling well, never drive. Leave the car in the office and take a cab for home.**

Does speed kill?

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

ADMIT it. We all drive too fast. In a country where there are no enforced traffic speeds, we are all guilty of trampling on the throttle as if it were a hated roach being squashed under foot. The frustration of being trapped in funnel after funnel of ill-engineered roads. And having to joust with the every other driver for a few square feet of precious concrete. Dealing with owner-type jeeps, illogical traffic rules, counterflowing cars and abused sirens makes most Filipino drivers scamper away from traffic at the first instance.

This is why most Filipino drivers, upon seeing an open stretch of road, the first reaction is to floor the pedal to greedily consume as much of the pavement as possible. All that rushing without considering that there are safety considerations that should be taken into account when driving fast.

Driving fast does not mean rocketing up the Skyway in excess of 200 kilometers per hour. You could be driving at 10 kph in a side street in Sampaloc and be guilty of overspeeding too.

And driving slowly does not make it safe either. Surely everyone has experienced that stainless steel owner jeep cruising along the North Expressway fast lane at 40 kph. Or that smoke-spewing, diesel burning bus chugging along Buendia making a right turn from the left lane.

Of course, there are those sensational accidents like that involving an actor who died when his car rammed the North Expressway tollgate. Or that Philtranco bus that fell down the ravine in Bicol. And that Corolla that swapped passengers with a PNR train. Yet if one looks closely into the real reason for these accidents, one finds out that speed rather than overspeeding, contributed to the accidents, but was not the cause.

Stupidity

The culprit in most speed-related accidents is not velocity per se. It is stupidity.

Let's make that clear. Speed does not kill. Stupidity does.

Here are the facts.

When traveling at 100 kph, you cover about 80 feet per second. Even at this speed there is a significantly large safety window to react to anything unexpected—if you know what to do. Whether that be a downshift-brake-turn-accelerate-upshift maneuver, to avoid that car suddenly changing lane in Ayala. Or a brake-turn-accelerate to evade a bus jockeying for position along Estrella Street.

Or a slow down and curse move to spare the life of a pedestrian crossing the South Luzon Expressway, how you react to the situation determines whether you give your insurance company their next headache.

At speed, even the slightest overcorrection of the steering wheel can cause a car to swerve into the next line. Usually an accident follows. Or there will be upright middle fingers and not-so-flattering comments from affected drivers. But a poorly calculated sudden lane switch is equally hazardous.

Imagine overcorrecting at 40 kph in the crowded Edsa in the morning. After the maneuver, you watch the cars pile up behind you.

Driving at speed can be safe. That is, if you know what you are doing.

Being familiar with the quirks and characteristics of your vehicle is a must. Don't push your car (or yourself) to the limits. All cars react differently at speed. Some will hug the road inspiring a lot of confidence. Some can be blown off course by that rushing BLTB bus. Knowing what to do with your vehicle in specific situations keeps things safe—even at speed.

Key to driving safely

Knowing what to do by anticipating what may happen next is the key to driving safely at speed.

This is the linchpin to defense driving. It is vital that you read as much of the road ahead as possible. Where are the curves? What are these solid yellow lines for? Should I overtake this truck?

High-speed driving should make one more sensitive to the road ahead. But most drivers fall into tunnel vision. They see only what is happening directly in front of them when they should also pay occasional attention to what is going on around them.

Most drivers think driving fast means stomping on the pedal when the occasion arises. Most also think that the faster you get the needle moving to 100 kph and over the better. Bzzzzzzzzz...on both counts. Smooth and progressive acceleration is the norm. Gassing up in the wrong gear not only wastes fuel, it can lead to a loss of control. Understanding how much power you can get from your engine's power curve tells you the most efficient way point on the rev range at which to shift.

Naturally, encouraging driving beyond the speed limit is criminal. These limits (though unenforced) are there because these are the speeds the highways can take. The South and North Luzon Expressways were designed to take speeds in excess of 100 kph, but taking into consideration traffic volume and all that, it is best to regulate oneself to the numbers posted on those road signs with nice red circles. Paraphrasing those gun control stickers "Speed doesn't kill. People do."

Vehicle . . .

(From page B14)

clear on taillights: it should be red and visible at least 100 meters from the rear of the vehicle. What's more, there should be a white lamp illuminating the license plates from both sides.

Lexus taillights

The background is silver, and there's a small, red circle light in the middle. This is one of the most common taillights in Metro Manila nowadays. Its perfect match is a pair of crystal fender lights. The blue bulb is also trendy, and is an option to super white light.

Projector headlights

Original headlights have low and high beams together. But some motorists have their projector lights changed, separating the high and low beams. The lights are separated into "trendy" circles.

A car accessory store in Makati pegged the cost of a headlight modification at P9,000.

A salesperson from a car accessory shop in Makati told us that customers as young as 18 change their taillights more than headlights. She also said new car models are coming out with projector headlights. Thus, customers with older car models want to upgrade their headlights into projectors.

(Next week: "Pabili ng Sirena," Mommy cries, "Eeek! There's a huge wart on my steering wheel!" and more Pinoy skid marks)

Isuzu launches new Hi-Lander

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY VERNON B. SARNE

ISUZU Phils. Corp. may be forgiven for the tacky name. The vehicle, after all, has the makings of a bestseller.

The all-new iteration of the Hi-Lander was launched last week at Glorietta in Makati, before curious press members itching to see the latest threat to the Toyota Revo's stranglehold on the AUV market. The new model was given a new monicker, Crosswind, which sounds more like the name of a radio station than a legitimate rival to the Revo. Nobody seemed to mind, however, as the product more than made up for the rather bland appellation.

Bearing a striking resemblance with the Revo, the Hi-Lander Crosswind takes the rivalry a notch higher as it introduces an 85-hp turbocharged version of its 2.5-liter diesel engine mated only to a 4-speed automatic drivetrain. The naturally aspirated motor is only available with manual transmission. The automatic model is obviously Isuzu's answer to the automatic gasoline Revos.

THE HI-LANDER Crosswind has the makings of a bestseller. Its grille is obviously a throwback to that of the Fuego pickup. Its tailgate opens sideways.

Upon closer look, the Hi-Lander Crosswind—known as the Panther in Indonesia—has unique touches that easily distinguish it from its Toyota counterpart. Its grille is obviously a throwback to that of the Fuego pickup, while its tailgate opens sideways and not upward like the Revo's.

Inside, the most notable new feature is the 3-speed aircon control at the back.

"We are targeting sales of 100 units per month, exceeding our current sales by 185 percent," IPC marketing and sales vice president Katsuhiko Kato said.

Introductory prices for the new Hi-Lander Crosswind have been pegged at P768,000 for the XTO automatic; P718,000 for the XTO manual; P655,000 for the XT; and P620,000 for the XL (base model with 14-inch steel wheels; the upper variants have 15-inch alloy wheels).

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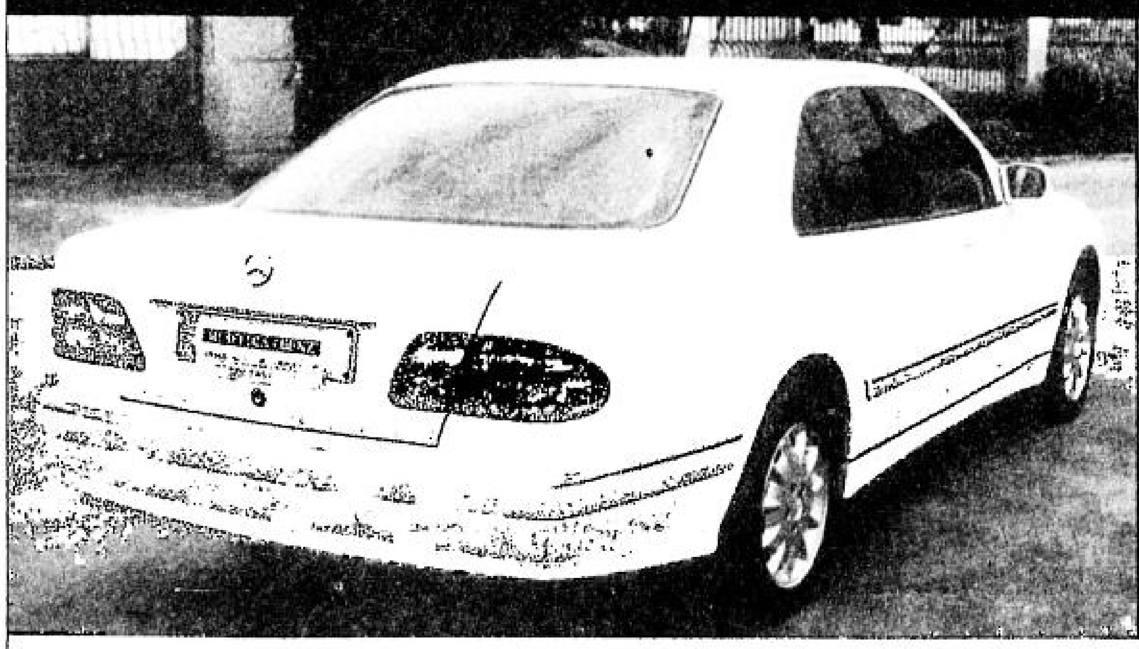

MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Vehicle accessories Filipinos are crazy about

And some that border on just plain dangerous

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

(First of two parts)

FILIPINOS love to make a mark on everything but everything. Just look at the walls of a public comfort room or the campus benches and you'll see. Others make their mark in the political arena. Still, others would rather leave theirs on the highways, using their cars as the "markers" or "paintballs."

But if you want to make your mark on the road, does it have to be at the expense of your personal safety or other people's safety? Do you have to overtake others to be remembered? Do you have to "outdo" another car owner to earn some respect out there?

Do you really have to install eight headlights on your car to see and be seen?

Youngsters mark their "arrival" as drivers by jazzing up their cars. Whether this boosts egos or improves the drive is believed to depend on the person behind the wheel. Jazzing up one's vehicle is an attribute of a Filipino motorist's ownership, an assertion that the owner and his car are a cut above the rest. It's a statement: despite hundreds of others having the same model as he does, there is nothing else like it.

Adventurous motorists resort to experimental vehicle accessories for different reasons. But up to what price are we willing to pay to dress up our car? Are you willing to part with your P7,500 for a pair of Lexus-imitation taillights? Are you willing to cough up P16,000 for an original US "wangwang," or P9,000 for a color modification on your headlight bulbs?

Do the accessories you buy actually help you drive better? Before jazzing up, do you consider the limits of safety the accessories you buy may bring you to?

Whether we like it or not, whether we know it or not, we may be bordering between being artistic and just being plain dangerous on the road.

Hey, souped-up car fanatics. Don't call me a killjoy just yet. There are accessories that look good and actually work. The INQUIRER went to car shops and rummaged through some of the latest fads we're crazy about.

The Euro look

Europe is going for taillights with clear lenses all over. There is no color here—just crystal clear glass white light. The fad started in Germany in the late '80s. But it was then called "blacked-out taillights." The purpose was purely cosmetic to make the back of the car look purely uniform. Our trendy Japanese neighbors then picked up on it, reversed it and simply made it clear.

But the Euro look confuses motorists at night. In extreme cases, some think a vehicle is rushing to hit them, mistaking a taillight for the headlight.

Backing taillight

There is a reason for reverse lights to go on when you're backing up, and for it to go off when you're not. The purpose of reversing lamps is to make you see your vehicle's back while backing up. Others see it differently. "Trendy" motorists wire the reverse light parallel to the taillights, so when the taillights are on, the reverse lamps are also on—even if the car is not backing up. Motorists behind such wired taillights would think the car in front of them is backing up. Imagine how they would react.

There is also a reason why some lights shine brighter than others. When the taillight is turned on, the stoplight should be doubly brighter than the taillight. The double filament lamp should be working here. So, when braking, the red light is brighter. The stoplight should have a red lamp that is visible under all conditions—even during daytime whenever brakes are applied.

Keep in mind that the international rule is the brake light should be seen from 20 meters away in haze. Land Transportation Office safety education chief Daisy Jacobo stresses that Republic Act 4136 is

VEHICLE/p.B13

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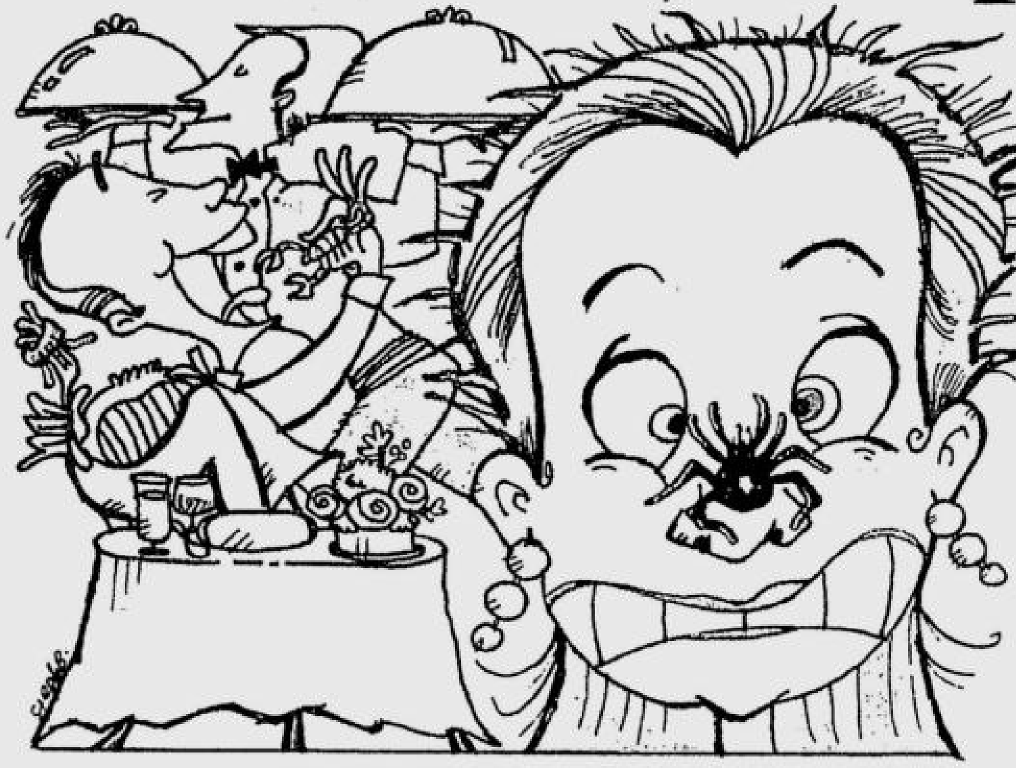

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Louise Panlilio

IT'S just past six here at work, close to two hours before I get off for a dinner function I have to attend. But my stomach is already making weird noises... rumble... rumble. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

Then again, maybe I shouldn't use such a cliché. After all, I could get what I wish for. And I do *not* want horse meat... in any shape or form. But then again there are people who might.

My friend Alberto Fenix, a cook at one of the posh hotels here in New York, was commissioned to help create a dinner for an annual gathering of world explorers not too long ago. And oh the dishes he and his fellow culinarians had to come up with... Turtle soup, braised beaver, roasted kangaroo, grilled bear loins, a special ostrich dish and alligator barbecue.

Deep-fried spiders

Alberto worked on the pest hors d'oeuvres.

First up: tarantula tempura. The large spiders were still alive and venomous when they got to the kitchen. They were individually packed in plastic cups with lids, stacked in styro boxes. The chefs threw the crawling arachnids onto a tray, put a wire rack on top to hold them down. Then off to the broiler they went. They were cooked instantly over the open flame.

TARANTULAS/ p.C3

> At the annual gathering of world explorers, dinner consisted of turtle soup, braised beaver, roasted kangaroo, grilled bear loins, a special ostrich dish, alligator barbecue... you get the drift?

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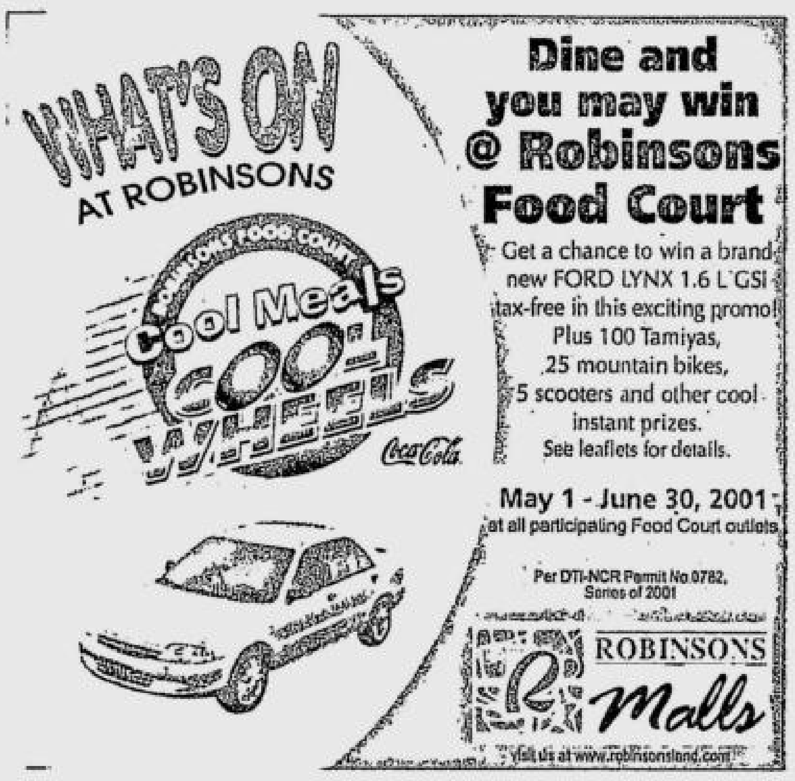

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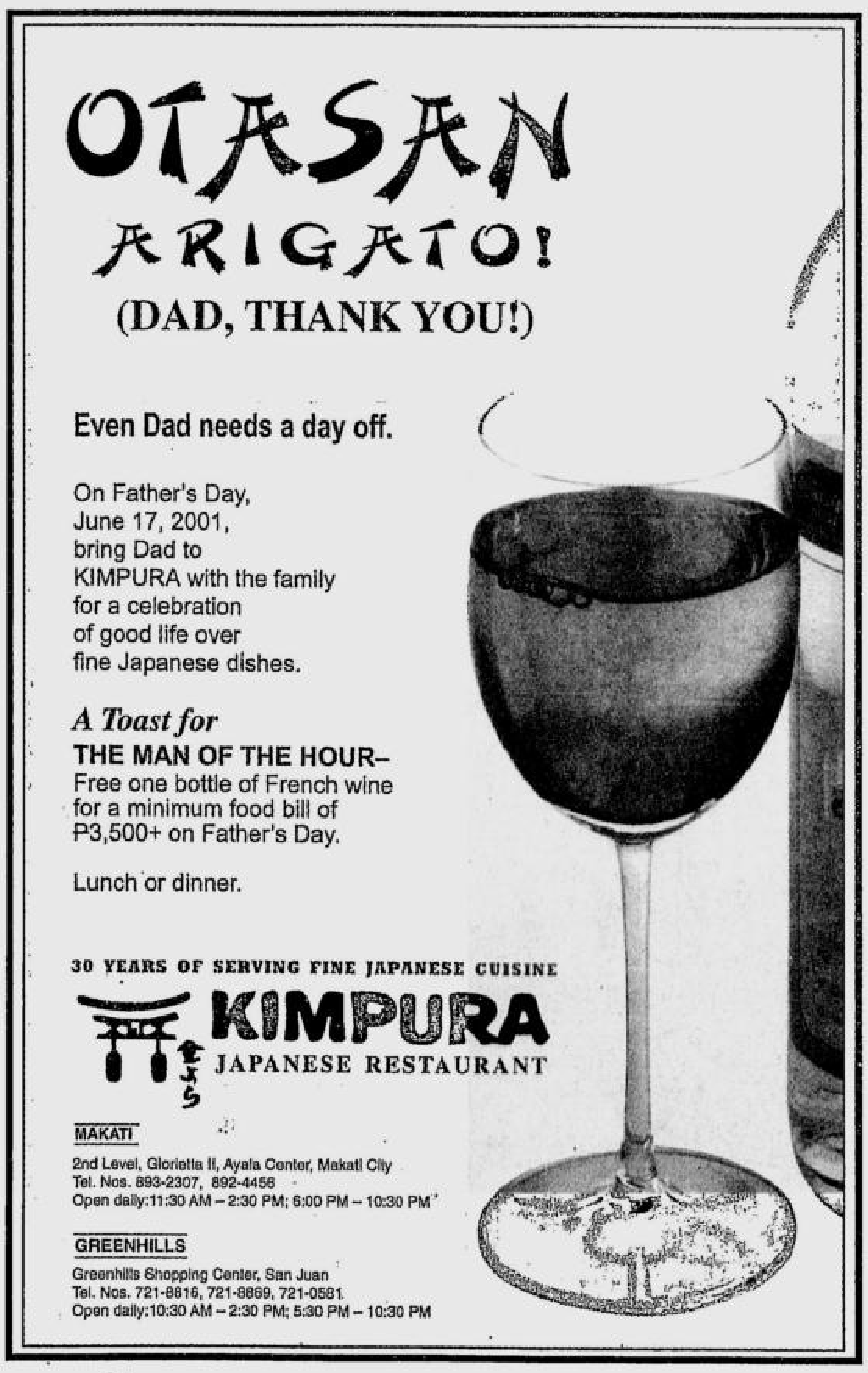
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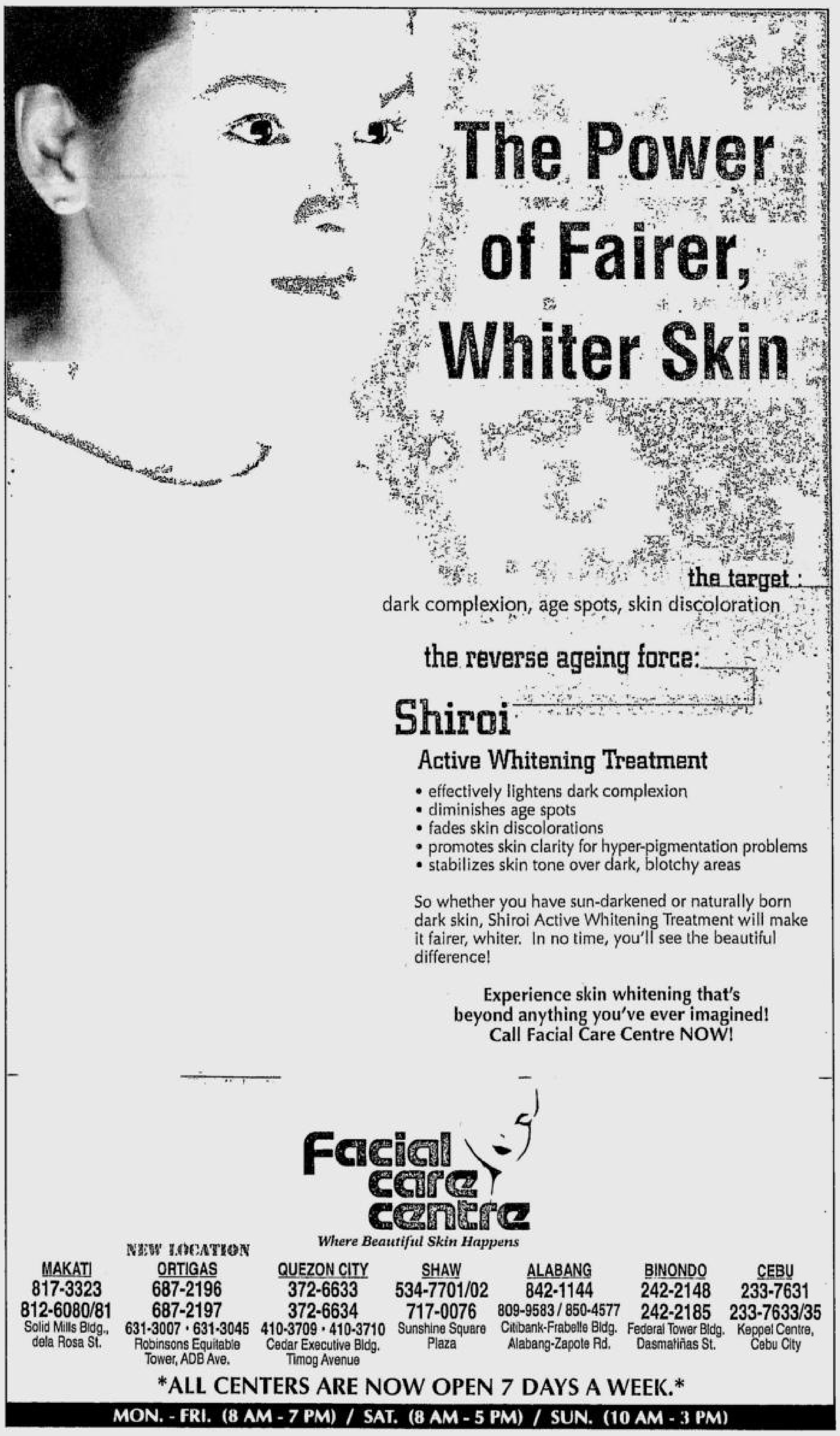
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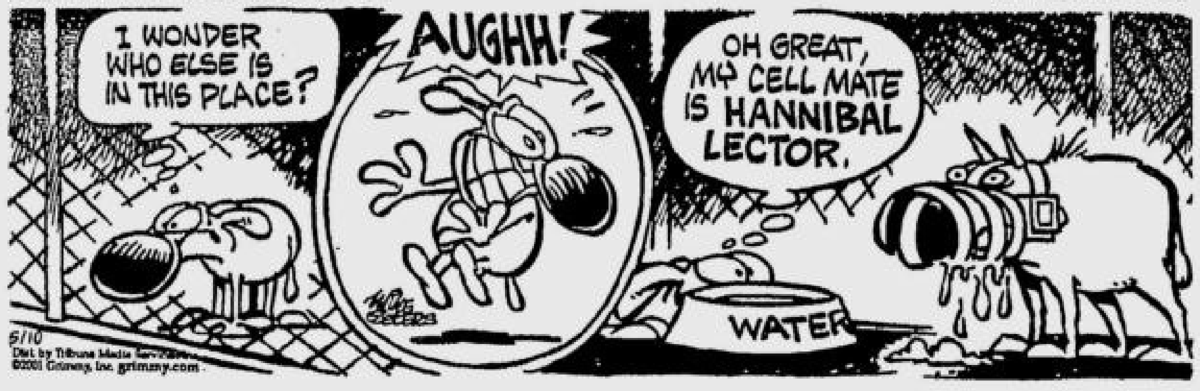
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I WONDER WHO ELSE IS IN THIS PLACE?
AUGHH!
OH GREAT, MY CELL MATE IS HANNIBAL LECTOR.
WATER
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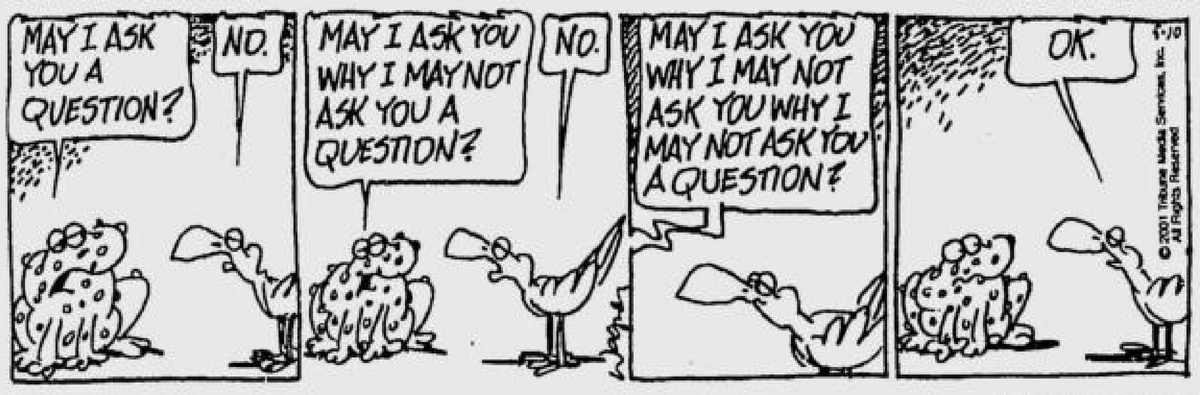
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
NO.
MAY I ASK YOU WHY I MAY NOT ASK YOU A QUESTION?
NO.
MAY I ASK YOU WHY I MAY NOT ASK YOU WHY I MAY NOT ASK YOU A QUESTION?
OK.
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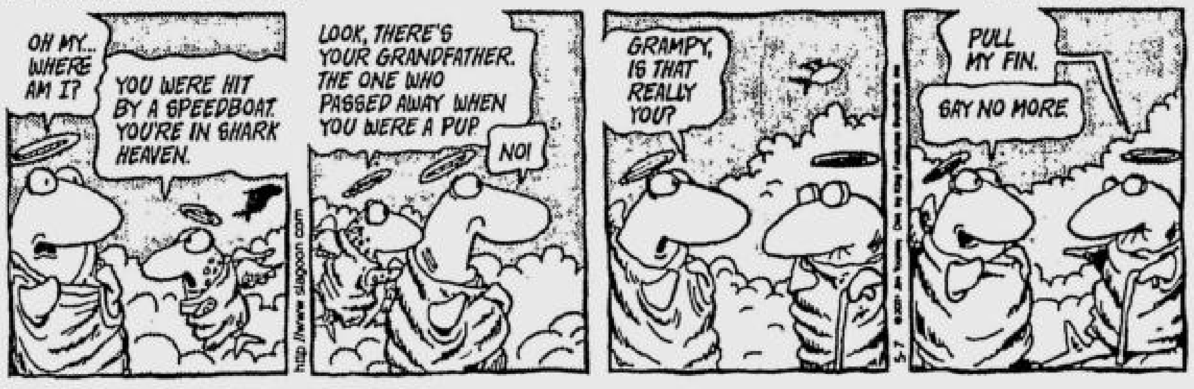
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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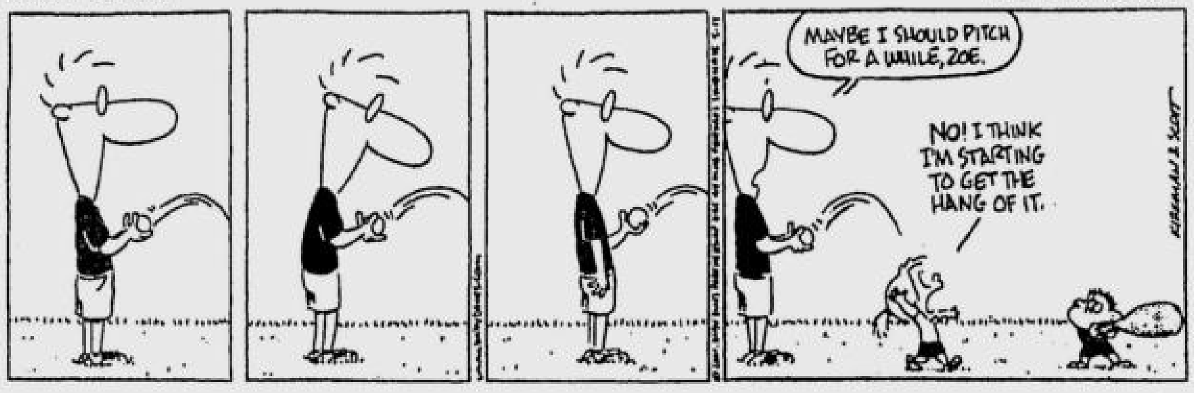
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MAYBE I SHOULD PITCH FOR A WHILE, ZOE.
NO! I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF IT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TCELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donald Trump, Boy George, Eric Heiden, Steffi Graf, Marla Gibbs, Yasmine Bleeth

Happy Birthday: Trust your intuition this year. Your sensitive approach to others will elicit genuine emotion from them. You have plenty to offer and will receive much in return. Finances might suffer, however, if you are too softhearted. If you set a budget and stick to it, you'll do just fine. Your numbers: 7, 15, 19, 33, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're ready to blow a gasket. You need to stay away from those individuals who frustrate or antagonize you. Preoccupation will lead to minor mishaps, so watch what you're doing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hiding will not solve any problems. It's time to be strong and evaluate your situation. Find a quiet place to reflect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't borrow money for a risky investment. You'll be in a tight spot when they ask for their money back. If you want to have some extra money, budget better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful in dealing with your boss today. Misunderstandings could lead to a loss of job. Try to be objective on issues concerning others. Flexibility will be the key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a difference by contributing time to worthwhile fund-raising events. Your warm-hearted, jovial approach to life will lift the spirits of those you encounter.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let money slip through your fingers. Just because you have some doesn't mean that you have to spend it. Put it in a safe long-term investment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can have whatever you want if you know how to get it. Your mate will want to spend a passionate evening. Be prepared to entice, and your partner will recall why he or she loves you so much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hidden assets could make a difference today. Study personal papers to determine whether you've neglected to cash in an investment that is due.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take time to help the children in your life. Do not overspend on purchases, lend money or become involved in joint ventures. Spend time finishing your creative projects.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you live with will be hard to handle. Step back and give him or her space. Avoid confrontations and go about your own business. If arguments break out, you'll both have regrets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't confide in others. Your personal secrets are far too revealing. Someone you thought you could trust will let you down. This is not the time to lend or borrow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to push yourself harder. You will be pressed for time if you want to accomplish all that you planned today. Don't rely on others to help. You'll be on your own this time.

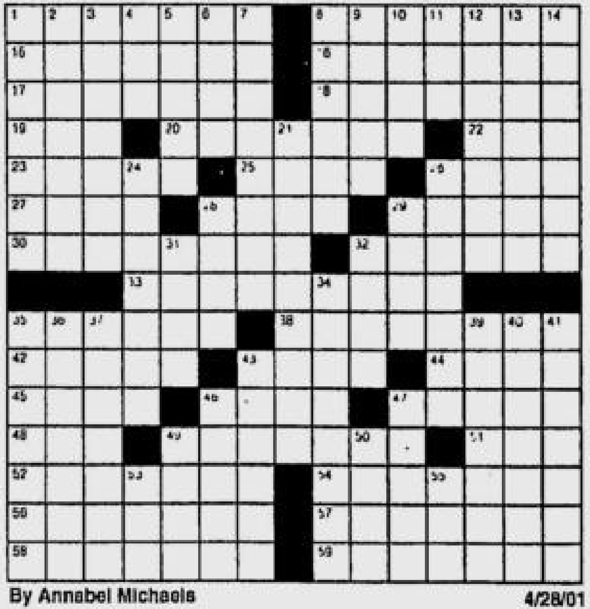
Birthday Baby: You are quick to respond to everyone and everything. With your abundance of energy, you will always want to be where the action is. You're exciting to be around, but hard to keep up with.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Hepburn film of 1954
8 Sorghum and millet
15 Caruso and Fermi
16 Closest to blue?
17 Adversaries
18 Stir up
19 "Peggy __ Got Married"
20 Slipped by
22 Itsy-bitsy
23 Rot-resistant wood
25 Nervous putter's malady
26 Chutzpah
27 Unwanted plant
28 Flock females
29 French textile center
30 Hard workers
32 Moved crabwise
33 Received from the original source
35 Neonates
38 Disorderly conduct
42 Dueling tools
43 Quick swims
44 "The King and I" heroine
45 Bath and Ems
46 Easily misled person
47 Church areas
48 Burns poem, "__ O'Shanter"
49 Appalling
51 Hanoi holiday
52 Mouth
54 Employ
56 Cats
57 Product identifier
58 Guys of aviation
59 Protection providers

DOWN
1 Wavers
2 Ringlike molding at the top of a pillar
3 Dog farmer
4 Outermost boundary
5 Slicker
6 Seasonal melody
7 Testers
8 Gets a grip on
9 Burns wildly
10 Corrosive substance
11 Gain a lap
12 Shoreline protection
13 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
14 Hardened
21 Thin line motif
24 Instructs
26 Hurry, horsy!
28 That woman's
29 The Swedish Nightingale
31 Contends
32 Old adages
34 Aspirants
35 In the most advantageous position
36 Clothing
37 Radiantly
39 Implant
40 Reacted to dust
41 Augusta National golf tournament
43 Coercion
46 Fraught with risk
47 Mystery excuse?
49 Pebbles Flintstone's pet
50 Home of the Jazz
53 White lie
55 Spike or Brenda


By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA

4/28/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	N	D	A	■	O	P	A	H	■	S	I	V	A
A	L	A	I	N	■	U	E	L	E	■	O	R	E	M
R	A	I	S	E	■	T	R	O	N	■	B	O	L	A
C	I	R	C	L	E	O	F	F	R	I	E	N	D	S
■	■	■	L	E	A	F	■	T	Y	P	I	S	T	S
C	A	S	A	■	U	P	N	■	V	E	T	■	■	■
A	S	P	I	C	■	L	O	G	I	C	■	O	P	T
B	E	R	M	U	D	A	T	R	I	A	N	G	L	E
S	A	Y	■	P	R	Y	C	E	■	C	U	R	E	R
■	■	■	B	O	A	■	H	A	J	■	R	E	A	M
S	O	M	A	L	I	A	■	T	H	A	T	■	■	■
T	I	A	N	A	N	M	E	N	S	Q	U	A	R	E
A	L	V	A	■	A	B	L	E	■	A	R	I	A	S
K	E	E	N	■	G	E	L	S	■	B	E	D	I	M
E	D	N	A	■	E	R	A	S	■	A	D	E	L	E

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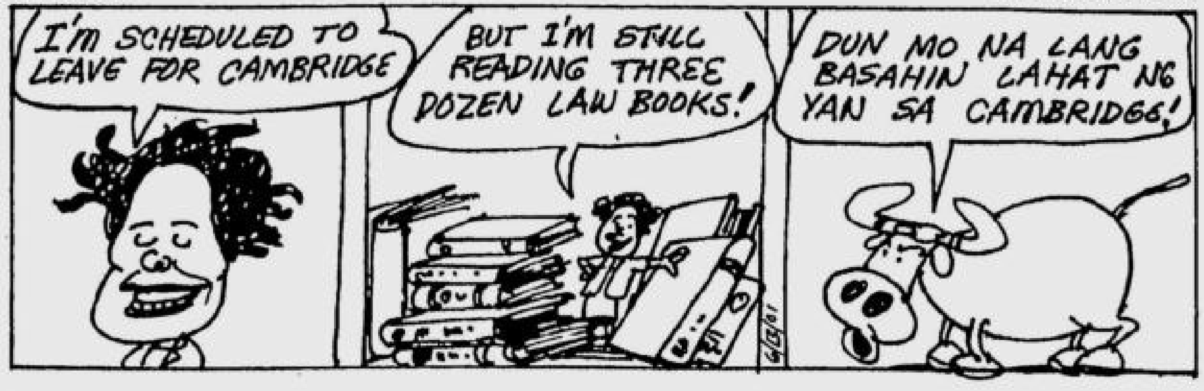
4/28/01

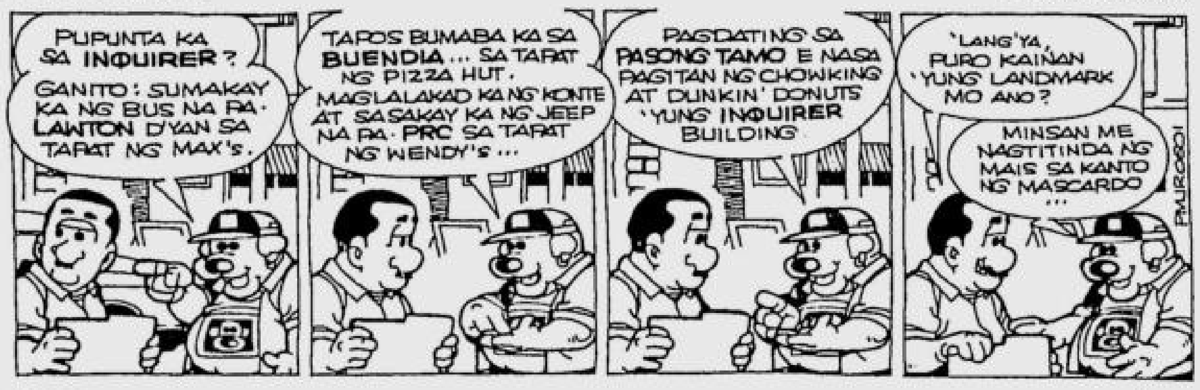
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


I'M SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR CAMBRIDGE
BUT I'M STILL READING THREE DOZEN LAW BOOKS!
DUN MO NA LANG BASAHIN LAHAT NG YAN SA CAMBRIDGE!
6/6/01

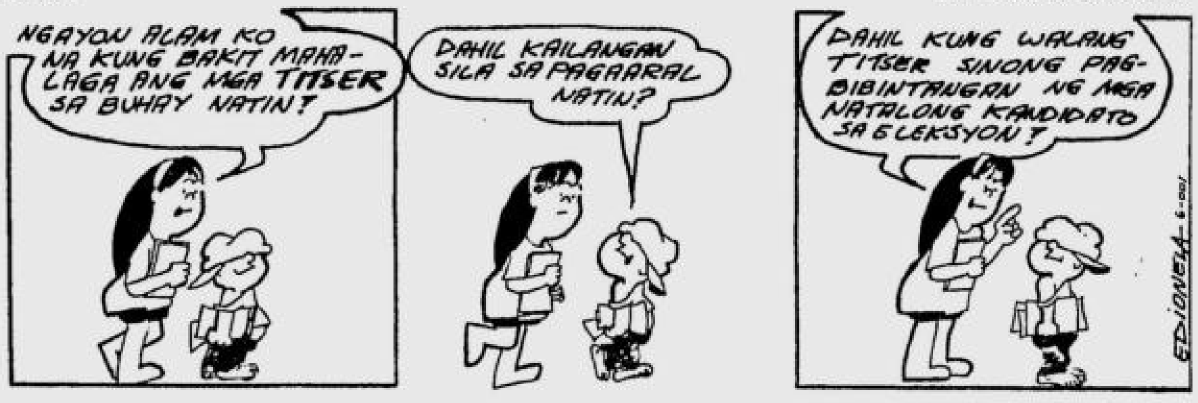
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PUPUNTA KA SA INQUIRER?
GANITO: SUMAKAY KA NG BUS NA PA-LAWTON D'YAN SA TAPAT NG MAX'S.
TAPOS BUMABA KA SA BUENDIA... SA TAPAT NG PIZZA HUT.
MAGLALAKAD KA NG KONTE AT SASAKAY KA NG JEEP NA PA-PRC SA TAPAT NG WENDY'S...
PAGDATING SA PASONG TAMO E NASA PAGITAN NG CHOWKING AT DUNKIN' DONUTS 'YUNG INQUIRER BUILDING
'LANG'YA, PURO KAINAN 'YUNG LANDMARK MO ANO?
MINSAN ME NAGTITINDA NG MAIS SA KANTO NG MASCARDO...
PMJR2001

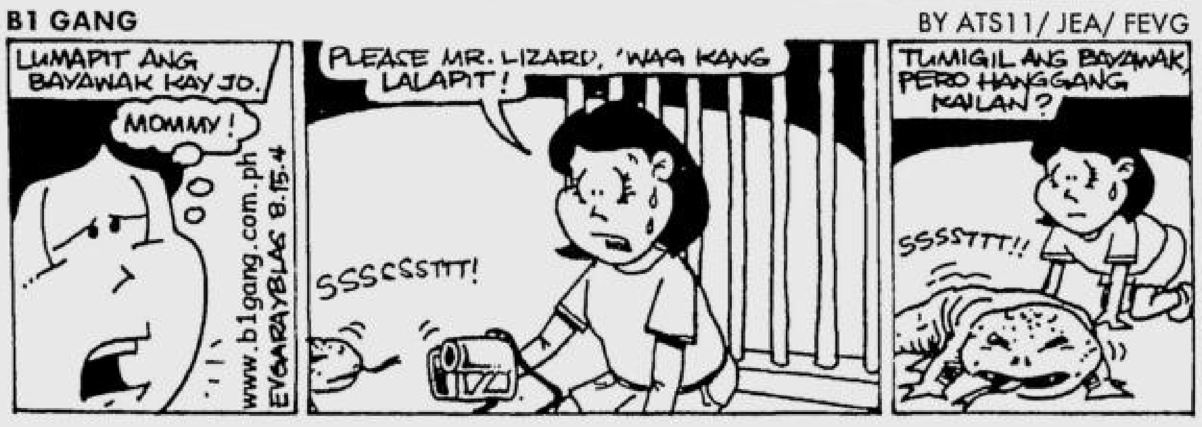
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NGAYON ALAM KO NA KUNG BAKIT MAHALAGA ANG MGA TITSER SA BUHAY NATIN!
DAHIL KAILANGAN SILA SA PAGAARAL NATIN?
DAHIL KUNG WALANG TITSER SINONG PAGBIBINTANGAN NG MGA NATALONG KANDIDATO SA ELEKSYON?
EDIONELA 6-2001

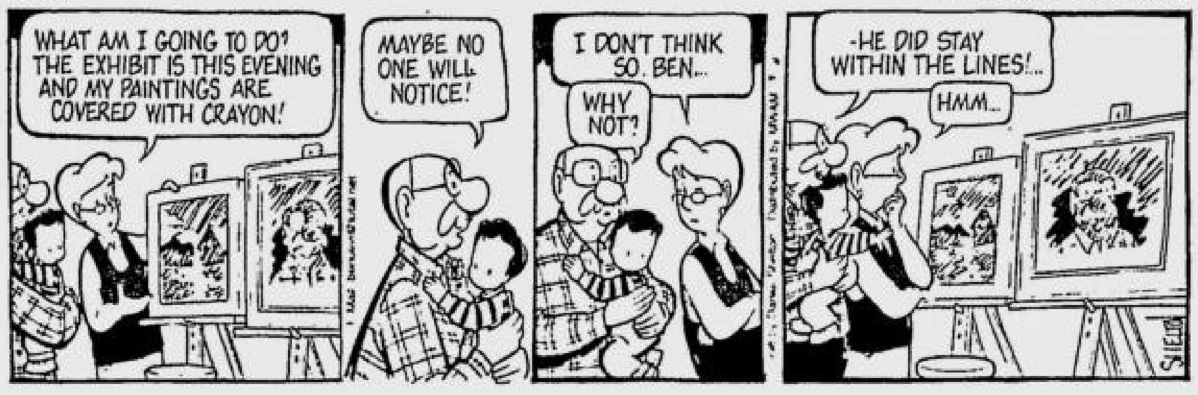
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


LUMAPIT ANG BAYAWAK KAY JO.
MOMMY!
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.15.4
PLEASE MR. LIZARD, 'WAG KANG LALAPIT!
SSSCSSTTT!
TUMIGIL ANG BAYAWAK, PERO HANGGANG KAILAN?
SSSSTTT!!

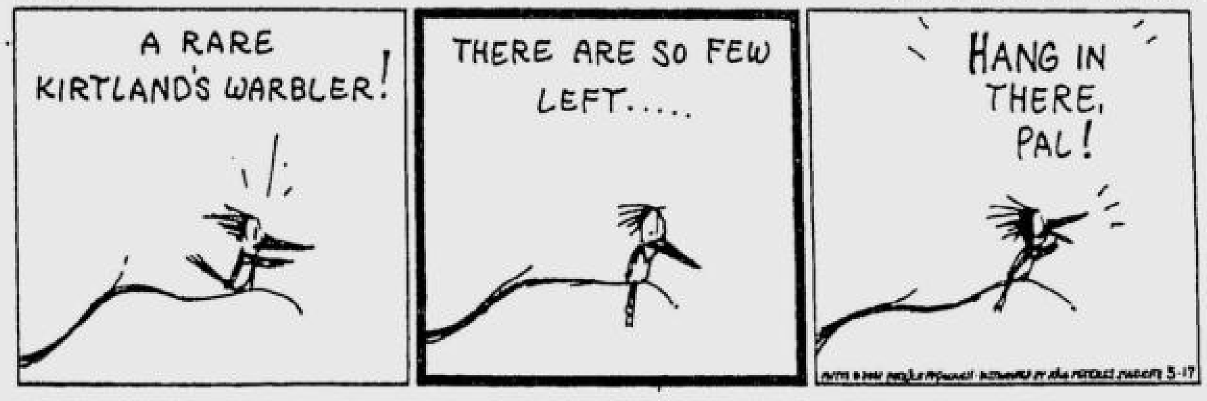
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? THE EXHIBIT IS THIS EVENING AND MY PAINTINGS ARE COVERED WITH CRAYON!
MAYBE NO ONE WILL NOTICE!
I DON'T THINK SO, BEN...
WHY NOT?
-HE DID STAY WITHIN THE LINES!...
HMM...
SHELTON

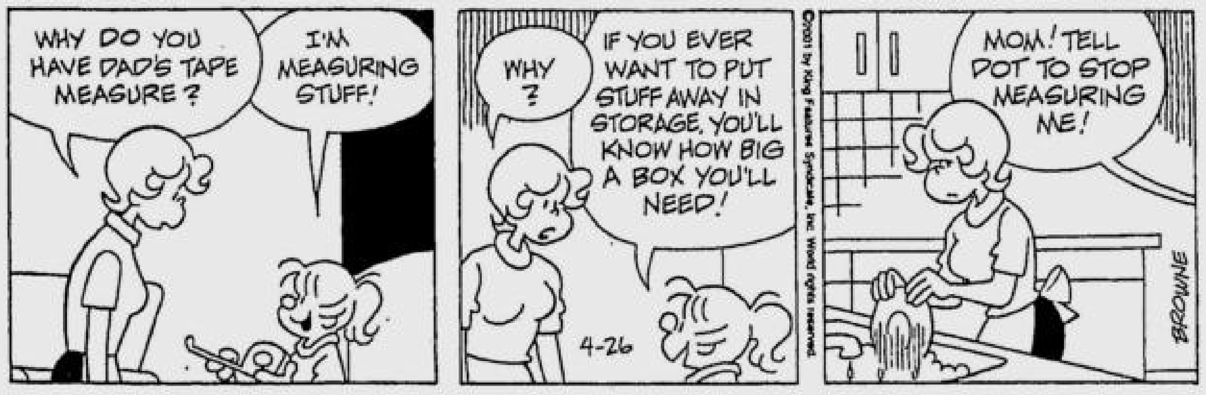
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A RARE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER!
THERE ARE SO FEW LEFT.....
HANG IN THERE, PAL!
5-17

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHY DO YOU HAVE DAD'S TAPE MEASURE?
I'M MEASURING STUFF!
WHY?
IF YOU EVER WANT TO PUT STUFF AWAY IN STORAGE, YOU'LL KNOW HOW BIG A BOX YOU'LL NEED!
4-26
MOM! TELL DOT TO STOP MEASURING ME!
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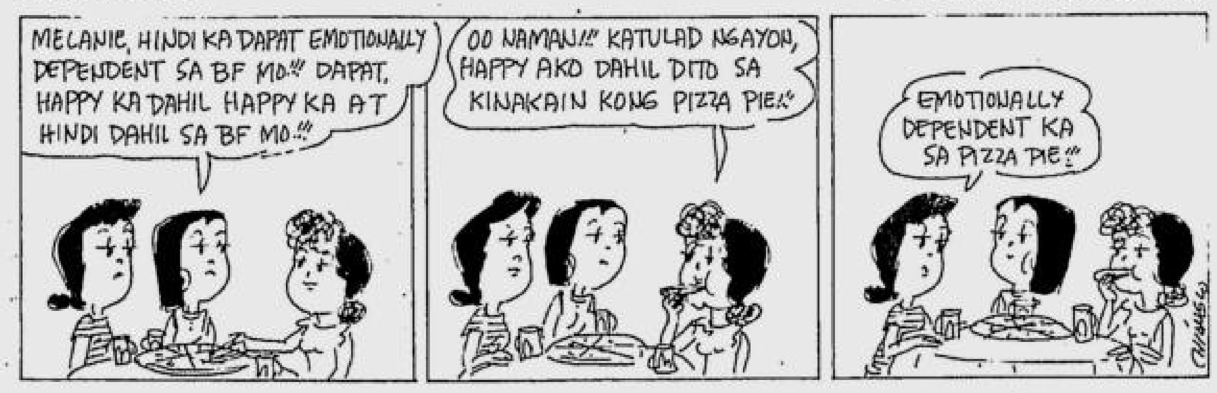
BROWNE

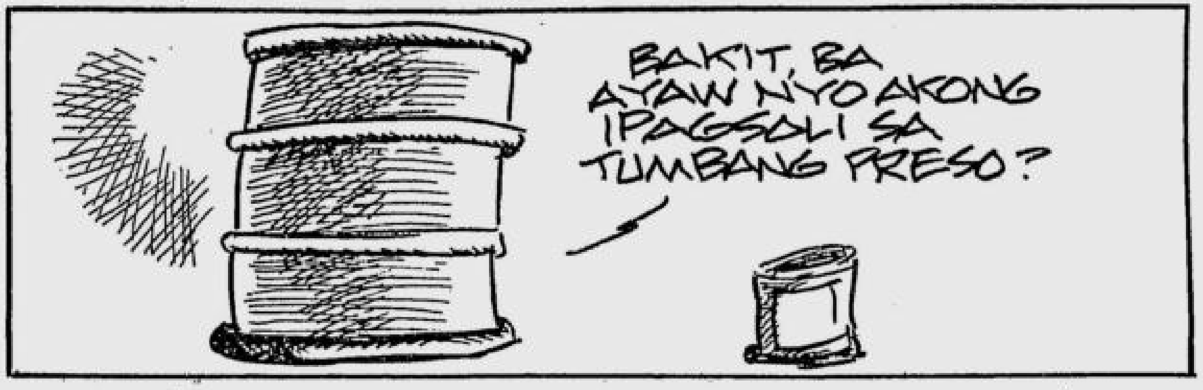
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, HINDI KA DAPAT EMOTIONALLY DEPENDENT SA BF MO!!! DAPAT, HAPPY KA DAHIL HAPPY KA AT HINDI DAHIL SA BF MO!!!
OO NAMAN!!! KATULAD NGAYON, HAPPY AKO DAHIL DITO SA KINAKAIN KONG PIZZA PIE!!!
EMOTIONALLY DEPENDENT KA SA PIZZA PIE!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA AYAW N'YO AKONG IPAGSOLI SA TUMBANG PRESO?

Tarantulas, scorpions and bears, oh my!

(From page C1)

The spiders were so large, you could see their fangs. They were safe to eat once broiled though, because their venom had been denatured from the heat. People who eat cooked tarantulas usually die, not from the poison, but from severe allergic reactions to the spider's hair. To prevent this from happening, Alberto and his team used hand-held blowtorches to burn off the tiny strands of hair. When that was done, the spiders were dipped into tempura batter and deep-fried to a golden brown.

Of course the chefs had to sample their own cooking, and they did so… though rather gingerly. Alberto started with the legs. They had a familiar texture. Like soft-shell crab, or crispy shrimp. Then he bit into the sac… ummm… a weird sensation. It was probably psychological, but it gave him a squeamish feeling. Like when you eat the duckling part of *balut*, except this was squishier. Like a whole mouthful of *uni*, the Japanese sea urchin. It was wet, soft, slimy.

Alberto actually liked it (uh huh…). But he didn't ask for a second helping.

Worm 'maki'

He worked on the mealworm *maki* next. *Maki* is a Japanese roll. You know, like *tekka maki*, the little tuna roll sliced into six pieces. Well, for this *maki*, the chefs used white, grubby-looking worms about an inch long. They weren't eaten raw, but were sautéed and rolled up whole. So that the guests could see that there were worms sticking out of it. Kind of makes more of an impact, don't you think?

The mealworms were actually pretty bland. Needed a lot of soy sauce and wasabi to perk up the flavor. Alberto says tuna's definitely much tastier. But it was pretty interesting to watch the people's faces as they stuck their chopsticks into their mouths. Mixed reactions. Some looked horrified, but others tasted everything with "excitement and glee." They would probably make great contestants on the next "Survivor" series.

The scorpion on endive leaf made a pretty dish. They were deep-fried and served with pesto mayo. Getting them into the deep-fryer basket though was the tricky part, since they moved fast, and their stings were poisonous. But once they were cooked, they again tasted like crispy shrimp. Alberto didn't get to sample them though, because at that point, he started to get palpitations. The right side of his tongue began to itch, and he felt palpitations in his chest.

He berated himself for eating the tarantula earlier. "Omigod," he told himself. "I'm going to die."

But he says he nonchalantly sidled up to the spider supplier and casually mentioned that his tongue was feeling a bit puffy.

Nothing to worry about, Mr. Supplier pacified the concerned Alberto. He said his lips were similarly affected. Apparently, they had tried the tarantulas that were used for the TV demonstration earlier, not the ones that were actually being served to the patrons. The chefs probably hadn't burned off all the hair, and Alberto was probably having a slight allergic reaction. The rest was psychological.

Alberto felt much better after that reassurance, but didn't touch the other potentially poisonous appetizer. No thanks. He'd just try the scorpion some other time. Among the entrées, he stayed away from the braised beaver. It still had a pungent smell to it, even if it had been marinated in wine for two days.

Gamey taste

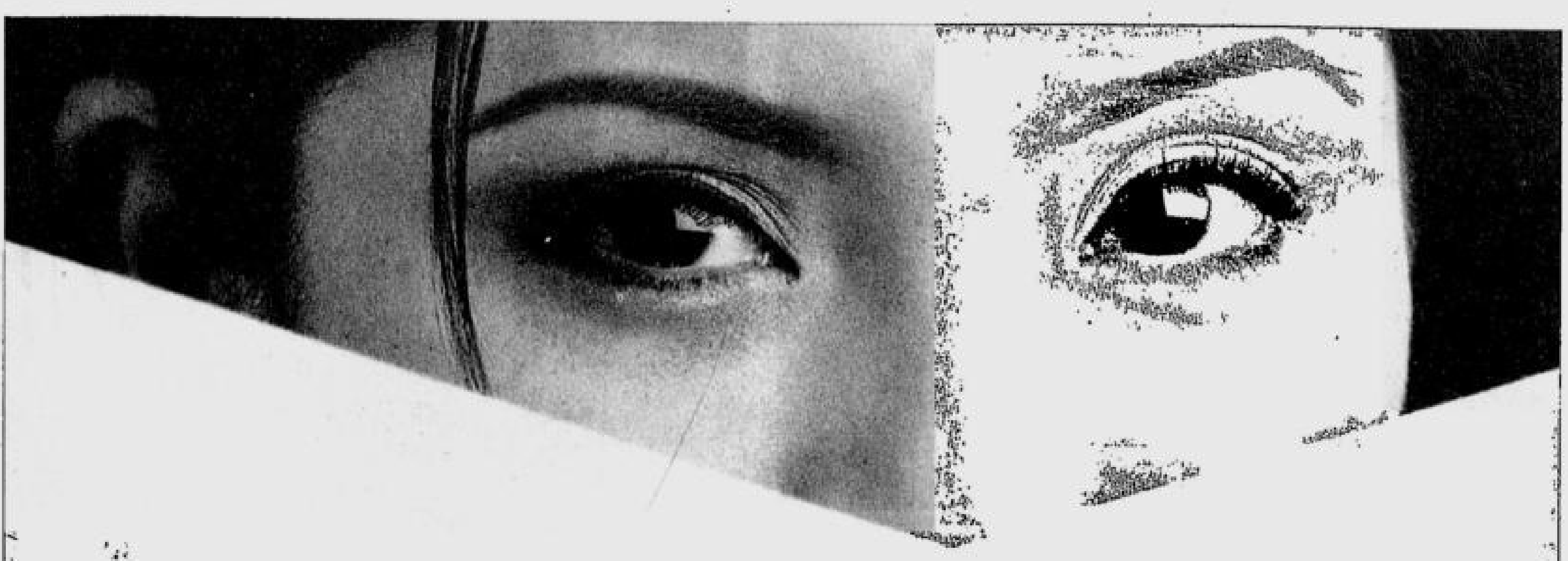
Alberto did sample some of the other dishes. They were cooked pretty normally. The alligator, ostrich and bear loins were roasted pretty much the same way people cook chicken and tenderloin. They all had a pleasant gamey taste, something he wouldn't mind eating on a daily basis. Good meat… that would pair well with full-bodied red wine.

It was a fun experience, Alberto says of the explorers' dinner. Something new and exciting, a break from his regular routine of preparing 1,000 chicken breasts or 200 whole beef tenderloins for a single dinner function.

Unfortunately, those are the dinners most people prefer to attend, one that I will be attending tonight. Yawn. Frankly, I wouldn't mind a taste of the tarantula tempura over the typical salad greens and onion soup I'll probably be having. But I would pass on the mealworm *maki*.

No, thank ewwwwwww.

E-mail the author at LouisePanlilio@aol.com



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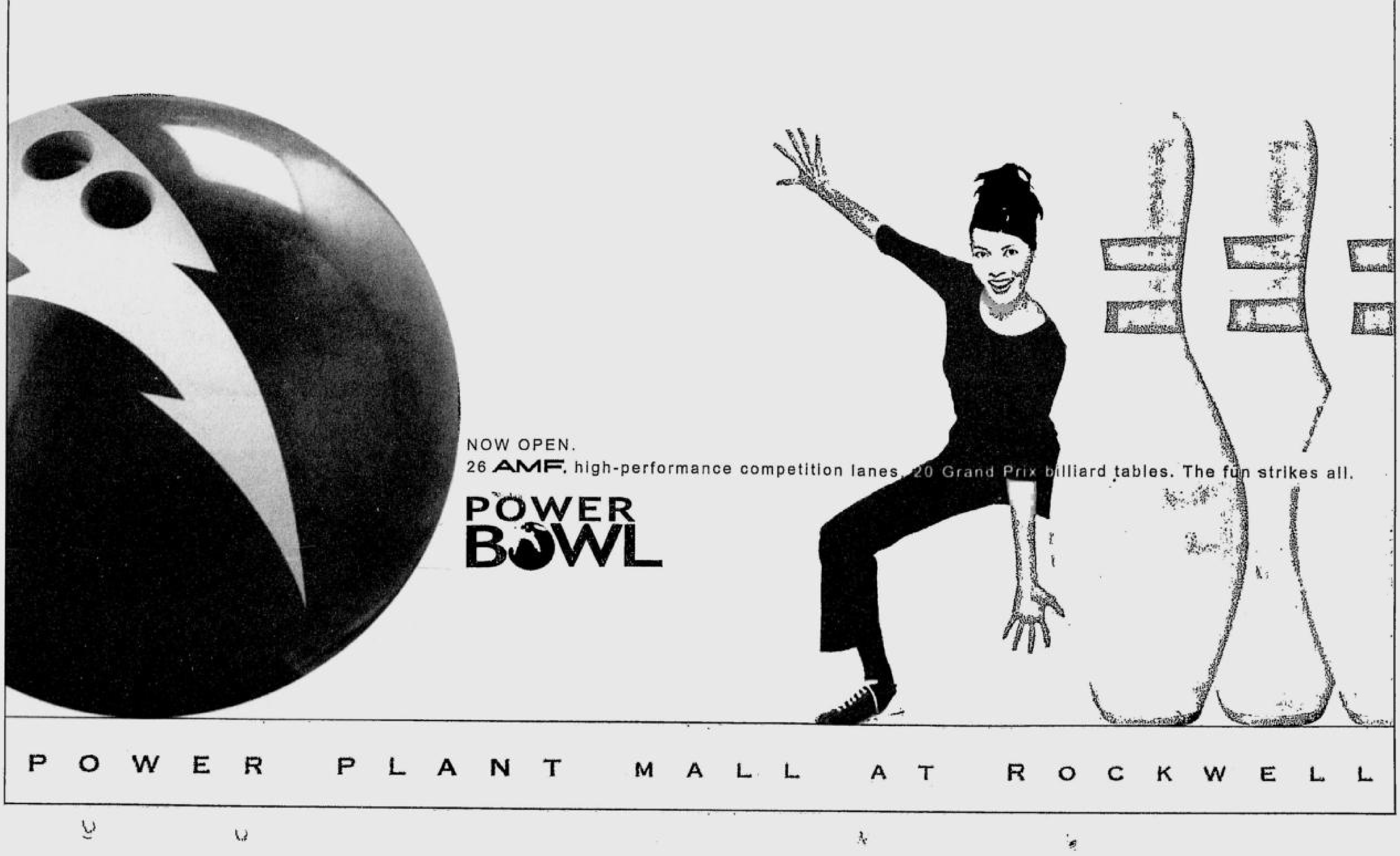

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POWER PLANT MALL AT ROCKWELL

Two all-time favorite 'pulutan'

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

TO HONOR fathers on their special day, Lifestyle serves two of the all-time favorite *pulutan* in town: *sisig* and *kilawin na bangus*. These two Pampango dishes are the archetypal food at all-male gatherings on any occasion. For the uninitiated, *pulutan* is a dish served with beer or hard drinks.

We learned that men are generally more addicted to *sisig* and *kilawin* than *papaitan* or *lechon*. *Sisig* consists of pig's head (including pig's ears or cheeks) and chicken liver, and relished with onion, calamansi and hot chili pepper. It is often served on a sizzling plate, which helps enhance the flavor. It is a dish so easy to prepare you will want to make it every week. Sizzling plates can be bought from groceries and supermarket for less than P200.

Wash the pig's head and chicken liver very well. Cut the pig's head into huge chunks before broiling. Total cost is less than P400.

Another easy-to-prepare dish is *kilawin na bangus*, which is simply dressed with vinegar and other condiments. *Kilawin* is considered a cuisine of freshness, in which vinegar is the indispensable ingredient. Total cost for this recipe is less than P150.

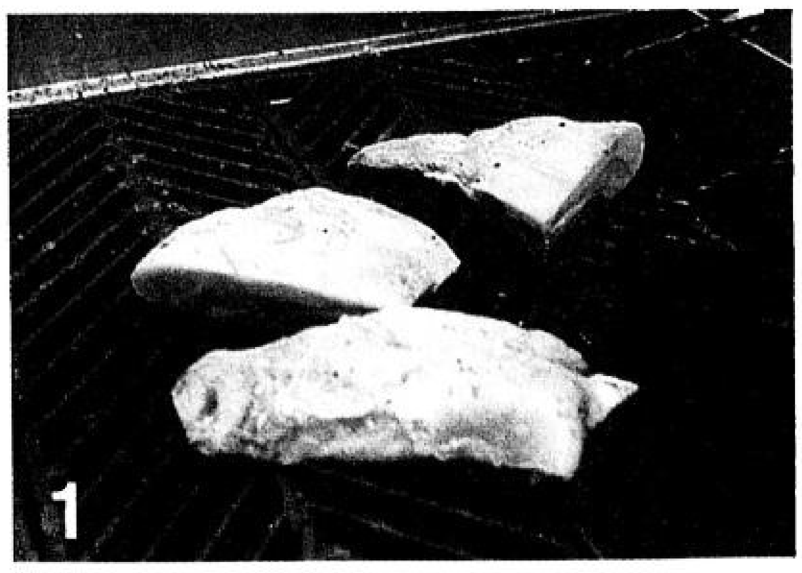
Oscar Nunag, branch manager of Cabalen in West Avenue, QC. shows us how to prepare *sisig* and *kilawin na bangus*. Cabalen celebrates Father's Day on June 17 with a special promo–free umbrella for daddies for every group of four dining at any of Cabalen's eight outlets.

STEP BY STEP

Sisig

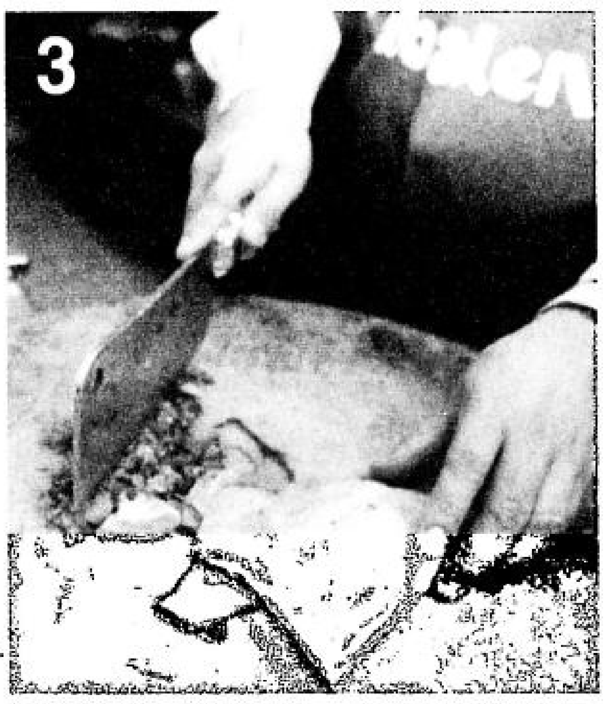
2 1/5 kg pig's head, broiled
1 c calamansi
½ tbsp ground pepper
1 tbsp salt
1 tsp *vetsin*
700 g onions, sliced
½ kg chicken liver, broiled
5 pc *siling labuyo*

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



BROIL pig's head over hot charcoal until well done.

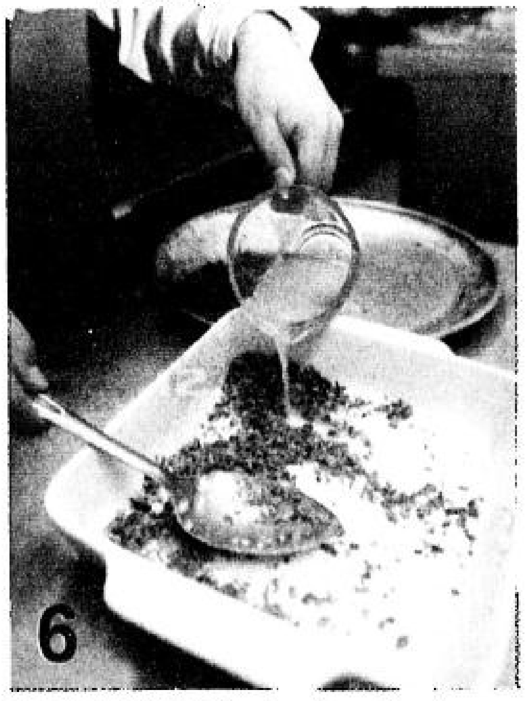
BROIL chicken liver on a piece of foil until well done.



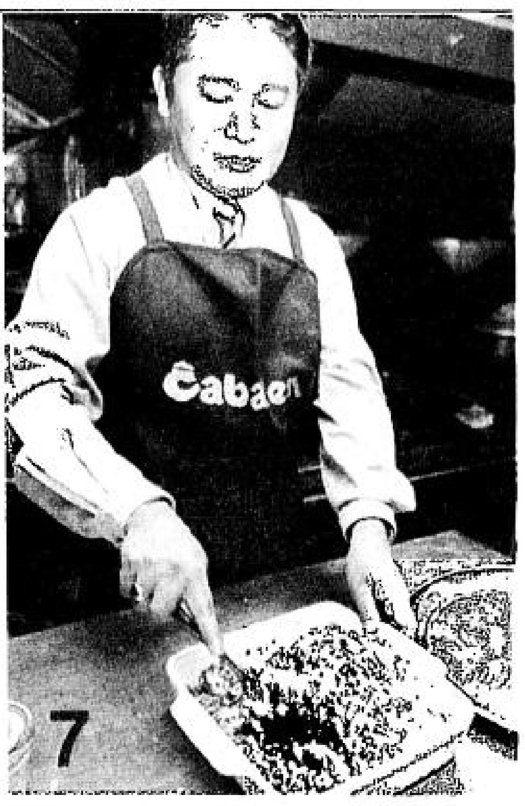
CHOP pig's ear into small pieces.

CHOP liver into small portions and set aside.

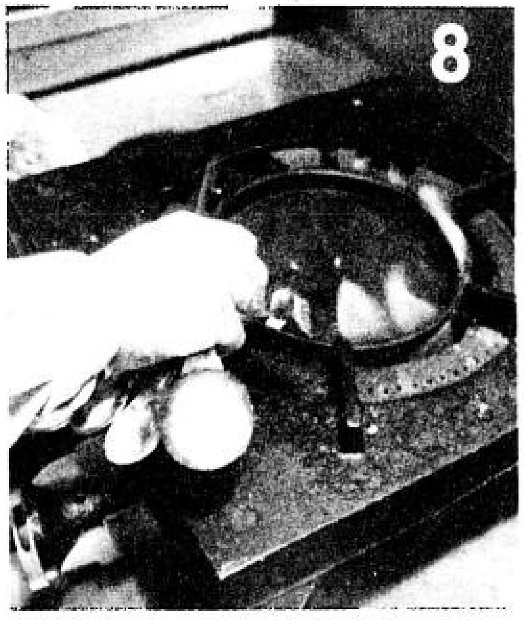
PREPARE all other ingredients, including *siling labuyo*, sliced into small pieces.



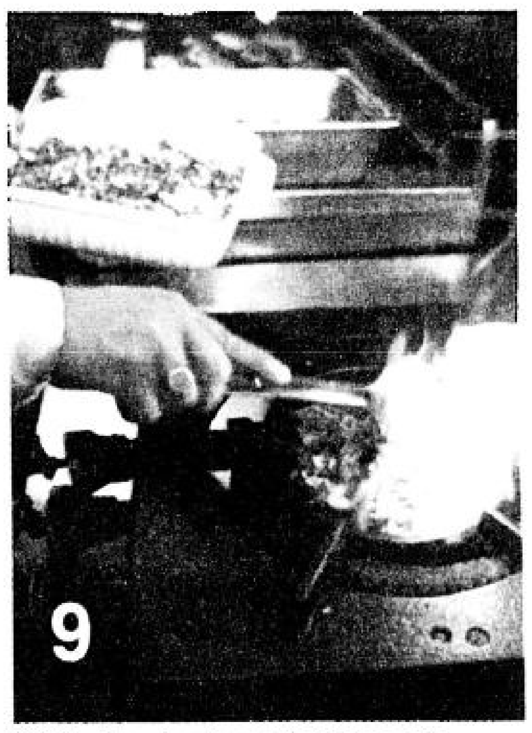
IN AN ENAMELED bowl, mix together (in proper order) liver, salt, *vetsin*, *siling labuyo*, ground pepper, calamansi, pig's head and onion.



MIX well and set aside.



MEANWHILE, place the sizzling plate on a burner over low-fire and add ¼ tsp of margarine.

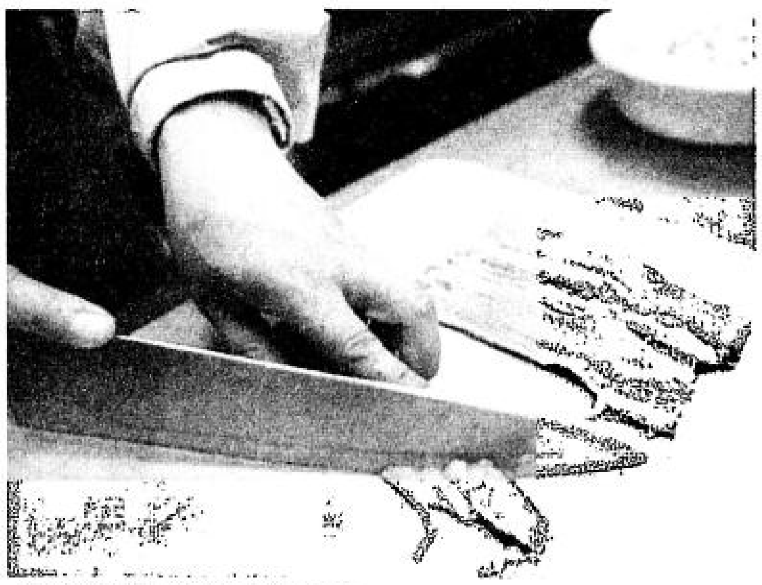


STIR in the minced meat for 15 seconds.

SERVE piping hot with a slice of calamansi, soy sauce and hot sauce.

Kilawin na Bangus

150 g ginger, sliced into strips
5 pc *siling labuyo*, minced
100 g red bell pepper, sliced into strips
100 g green bell pepper, sliced into strips
250 g native onion, cut into strips
¾ c vinegar
¼ c calamansi
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp *vetsin*
1/8 ground pepper
1 kg skinless *bangus* (back part only)

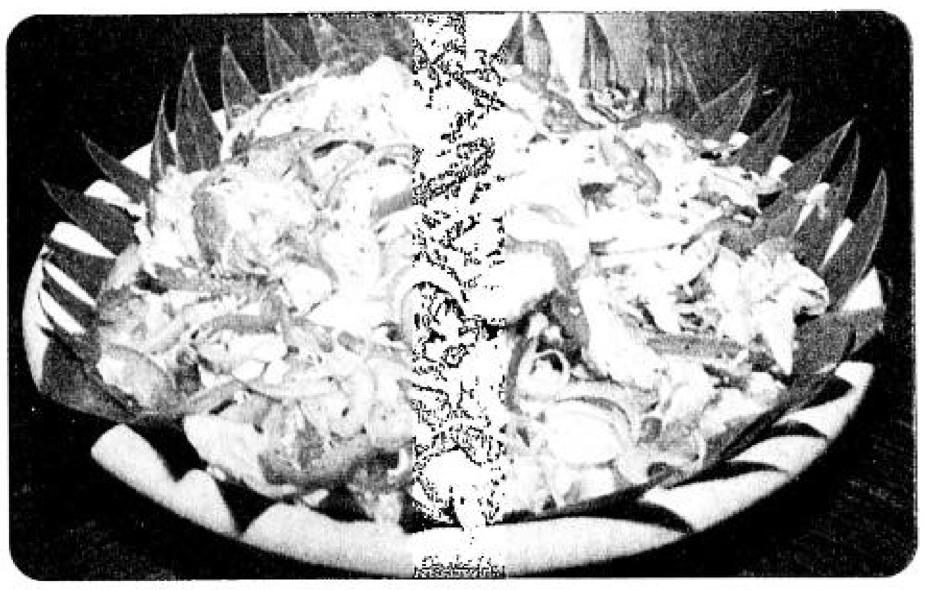


1 SLICE fish fillet to bite sizes.

2 BOIL two cups of water, drop in the sliced fish meat for 20 seconds and drain water.

3 PLACE fish meat in a clean casserole and add salt, *vetsin*, ground pepper, calamansi, vinegar, green and red bell pepper, onion and ginger.

4 MIX well using your hands.



5 SERVE Kilawin na Bangus in a plate lined with banana leaf.

CYCLONE ARTS & TECHNOLOGIES ® ASIA CAMPUS
ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **LEN DELOS REYES**, Account Manager

ROMY HOMILLADA

BEHIND Cyclone is a group with a vision for the animation industry: Tom de Leon, Simon Bachard, Robert Tarnate, Michael Le, Cynthia de Leon and Donna Cancio-Le.

Waking the computer animator within

Cyclone Arts and Technologies Asia Campus, the very first school in computer animation, opens in the country

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

WANNA become a computer animator, like those who make 3D animated films such as "Toy Story" or video games such as "Counter Strike"?

Cyclone Arts and Technologies Asia Campus, a school that specializes in teaching 2D and 3D computer animation, multimedia and video games, finally opens in the country. Cyclone Campus is located in Mayon Corporate Center in Quezon City.

Cyclone Asia Campus is a branch of Cyclone Arts and Technologies, an established school in Canada that is known for teaching software-assisted animation, which is the current trend in the animation industry worldwide.

The school has been brought here in the country by a group of businessmen and enthusiasts interested in propagating a relatively new field that Filipinos can learn and master.

"There is a very strong trend toward computer animation because of IT," says Tom de Leon of Cyclone Philippines. "We expect a tremendous growth in the entertainment industry with regard to this field. And here in the country, creativity is one of the greatest talents of Filipinos. If we train our people, we'll be a major center for animators."

Established in Canada in 1996, Cyclone has already trained known designers, artists, animators and technicians who work in film, TV, and advertising. The school also serves as an expertise exchange center where artists and students can meet to share

WAKING/ C7

messages

WE WOULD like to congratulate Cyclone Arts & Technologies Asia Campus for their grand opening. A new avenue has been opened for all talented Filipinos who would like to bring their creativity and imagination into the future of traditional and computer animation.

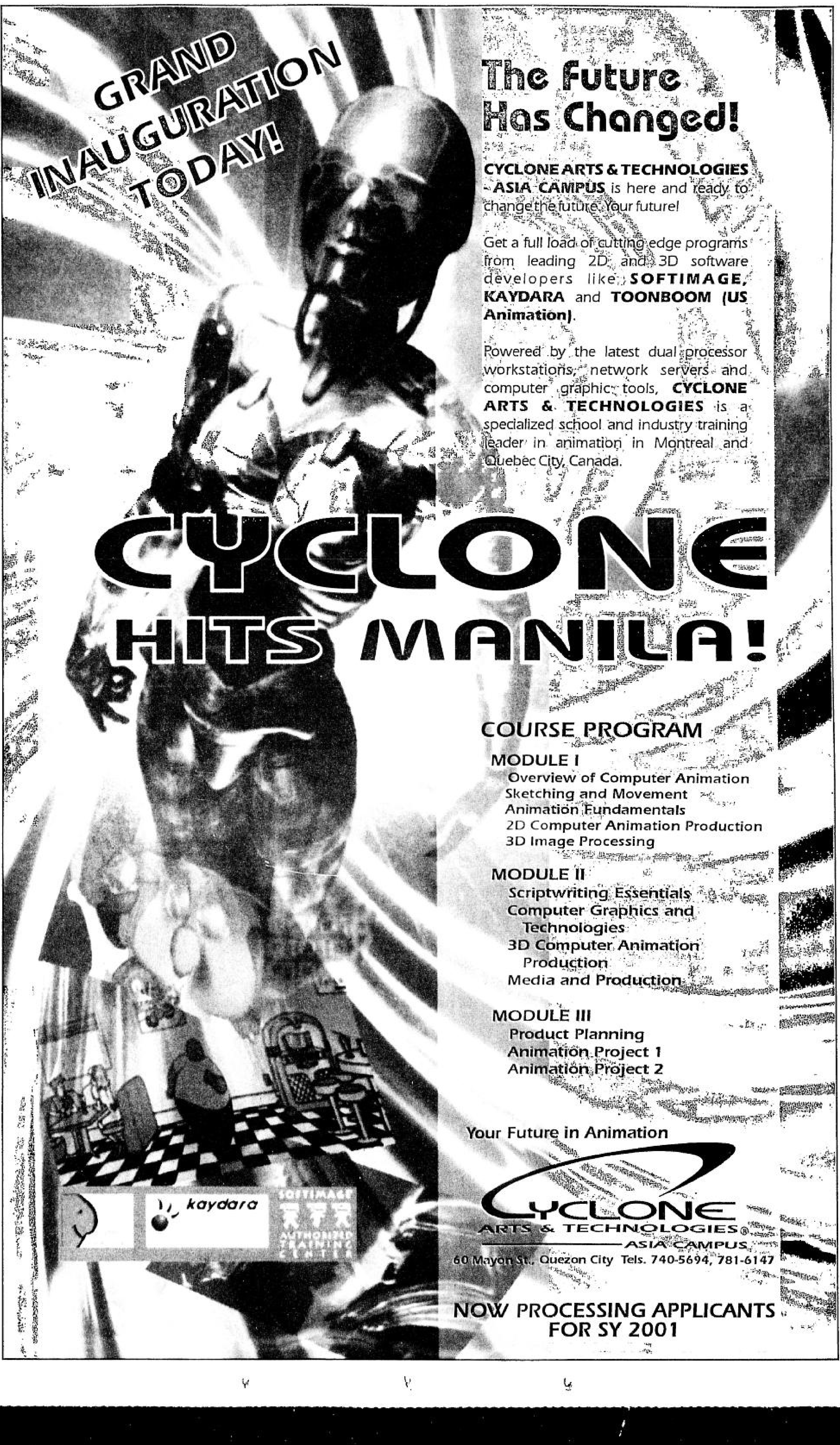
RICHARD LANGEVIN
President
Cyclone Arts & Technologies-Canada

WE BELIEVE in the Filipino's creativity and innovativeness. It was this belief in our inherent strength as a people that motivated us to establish Cyclone Arts and Technologies Asia, Inc. (Asia Campus) as the premier school that will offer the latest concepts, principles and technologies in computer animation.

Cyclone Arts and Technologies Asia Inc. is the result of a shared vision with Cyclone Canada, a leading computer animation school with campuses in Montreal and Quebec City, Canada. The institution will showcase the wonders of the animation world via the use of high-end software such as USAnimation, SoftImage and Kaydara packages. These technologies combined with Pinoy passion for the arts, his innate creativity plus solid training in the fundamentals of animation will make us a major source of talent for the growing animation and entertainment industry.

We thank Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette, Cyclone Arts and Technologies-Canada President Richard Langevin, DECS Secretary Raul Roco and Director Gemma Rendon of Tesda for their support. Please join us in animating our future!

Donna Le
DONNA CANCIO-LE
President
Cyclone Arts and Technologies Asia Inc.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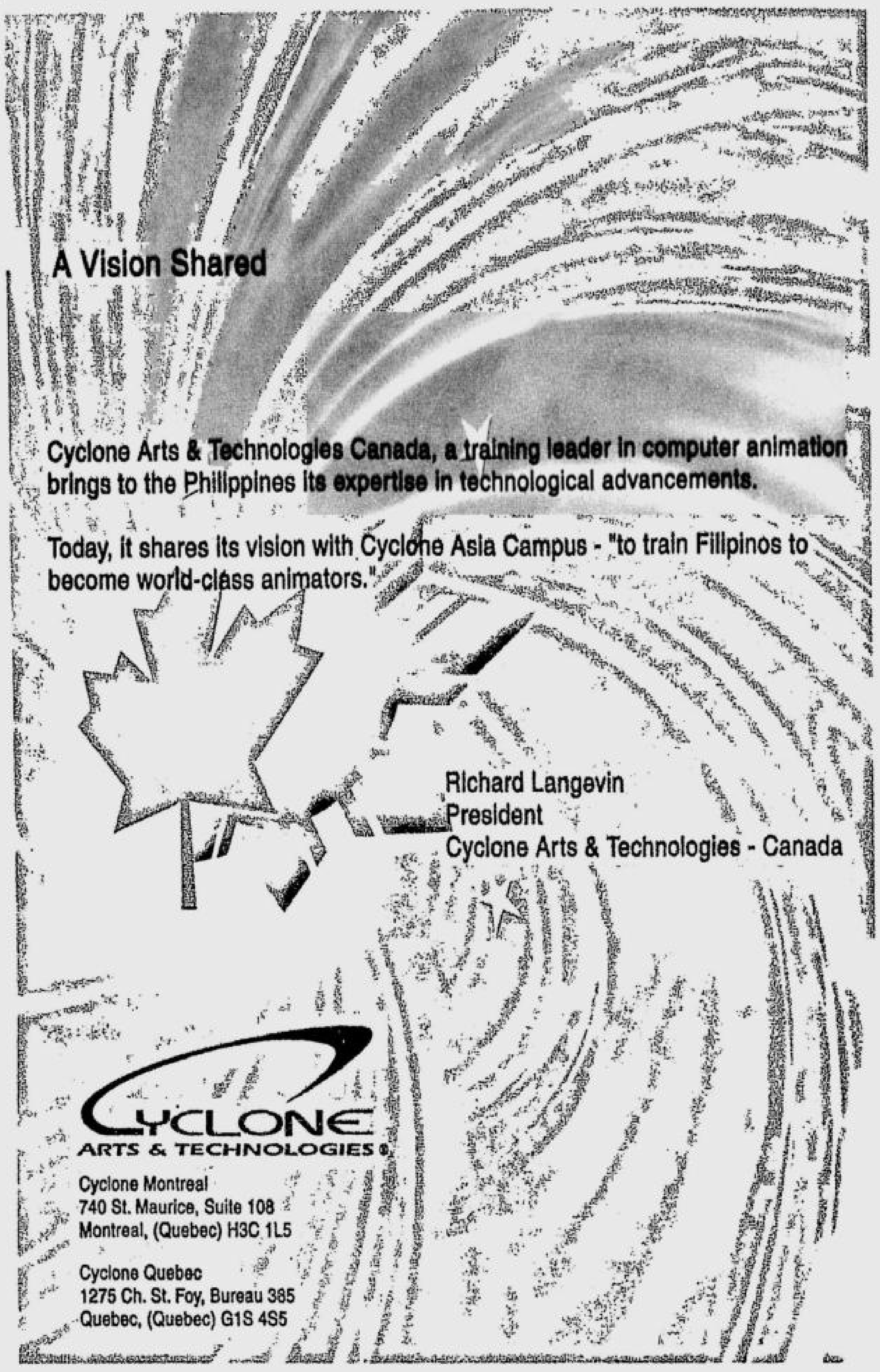

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Cyclone Arts & Technologies Canada, a training leader in computer animation brings to the Philippines its expertise in technological advancements.

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Richard Langevin
President
Cyclone Arts & Technologies - Canada

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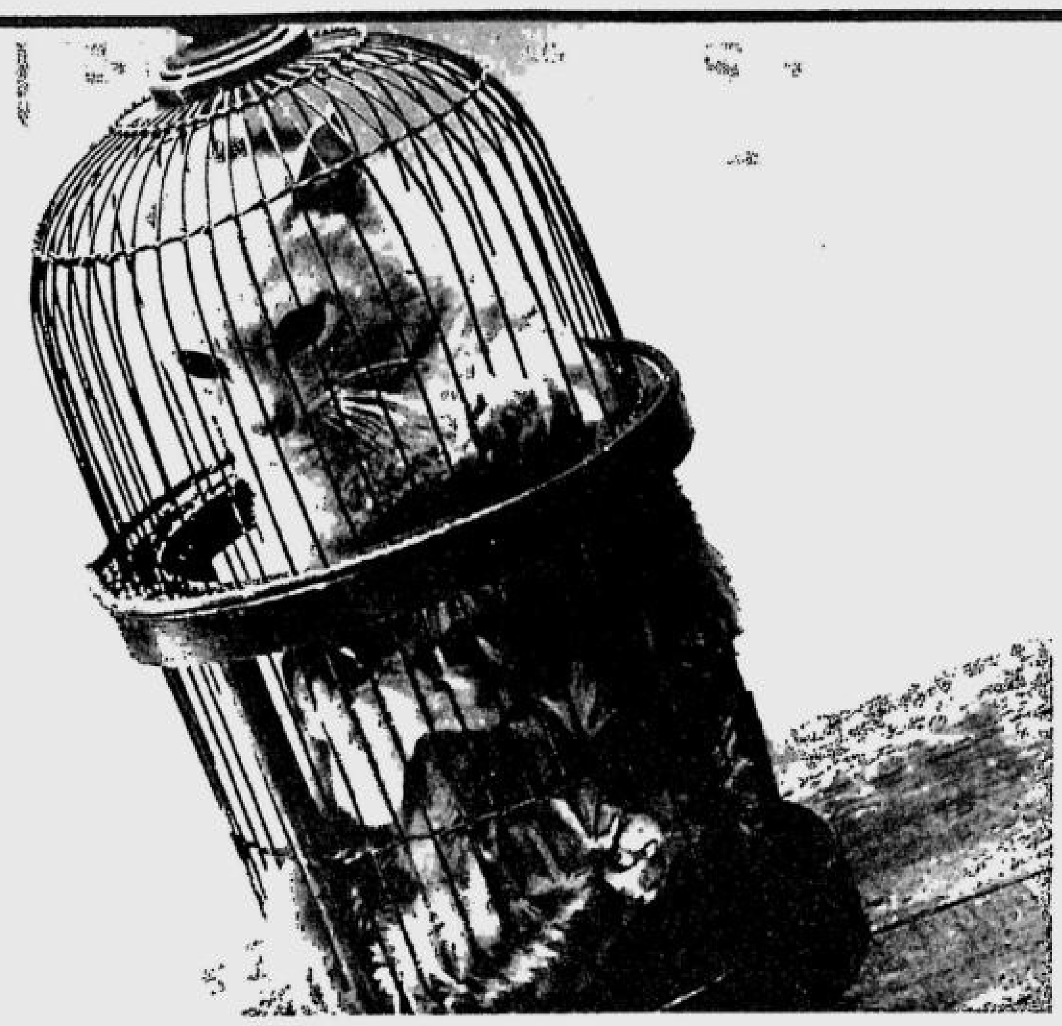

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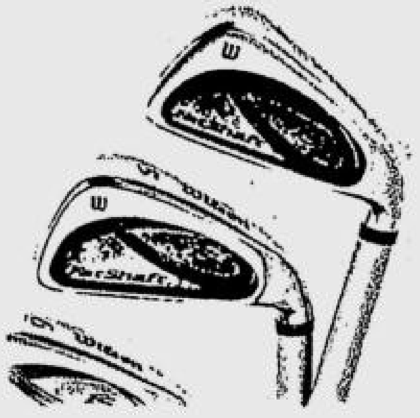

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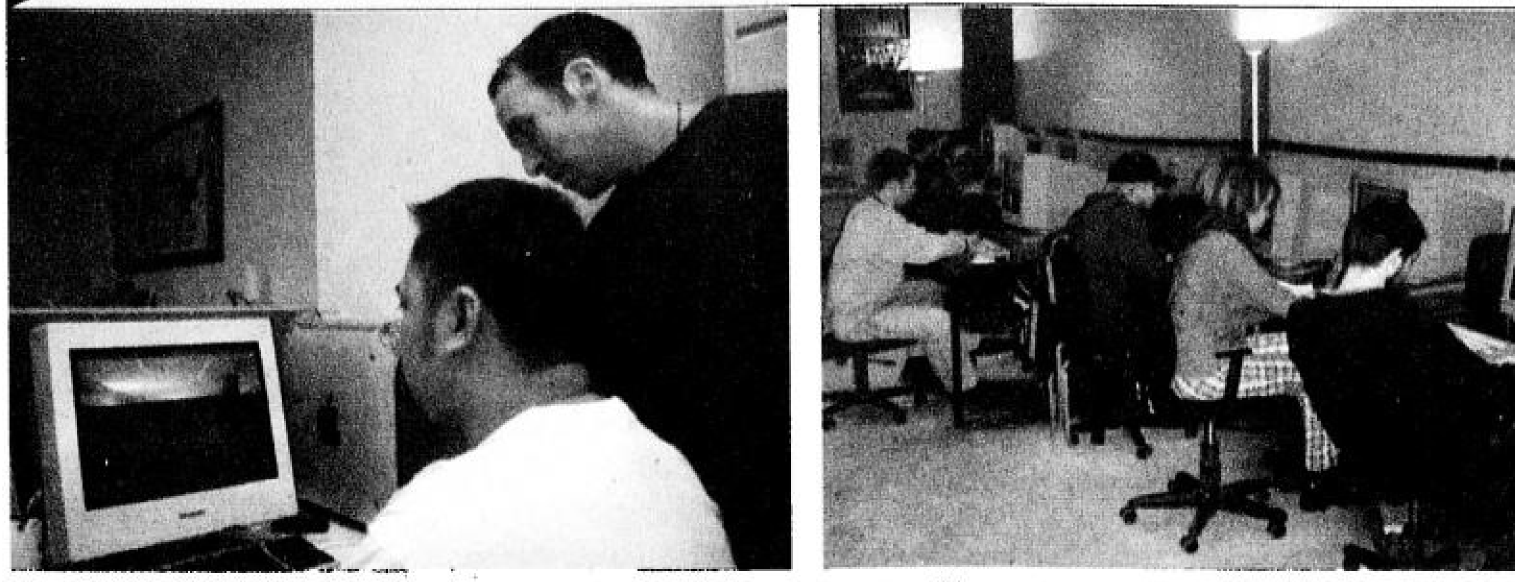
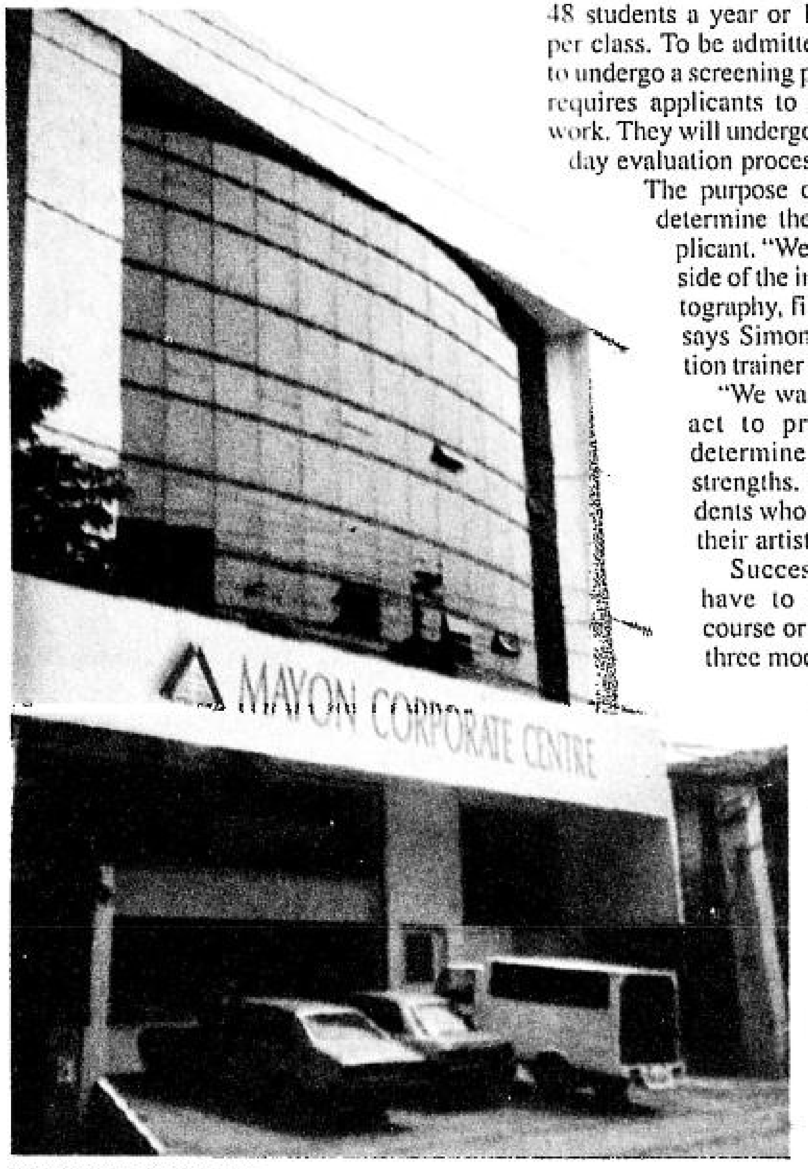


TEACHING will almost be done one-on-one by the animation trainers to students who will learn animation in the classroom and in a laboratory equipped with computers and other facilities.

Waking the computer . . .

(From page C5)

> 'At Cyclone Asia Campus, Filipinos will be trained to become world-class animators'



CYLONE Asia Campus

DONNA CANCIO-LE

ANIMATION trainer Simon Bachand

experiences in their specific areas of specialization.

Two Cyclone centers have been put up in Canada: one in Quebec and the other in Montreal.

For the Philippine tie-up, Cyclone Canada will provide technical expertise that includes animation trainers or teachers from their school to teach Filipino students.

The school will only train about 48 students a year or 16 students per class. To be admitted, one has to undergo a screening process that requires applicants to submit a portfolio of work. They will undergo interview and a three-day evaluation process.

The purpose of the screening is to determine the creativity of the applicant. "We want to see the artistic side of the individual either in photography, film or other art forms," says Simon Bachand, the animation trainer from Cyclone Canada.

"We want to see how they react to pressure and also to determine their weakness and strengths. We want to have students who will be responsible for their artistic interest."

Successful applicants will have to hurdle an 11-month course or program that involves three modules. In the first module, students will be taught sketching and movement, animation fundamentals, 2D computer animation production, and 3D image processing.

Scriptwriting, computer graphics, 3D animation production, media and production will be the subjects taught during the second module. The third module will teach students production planning and the realization of their dream animation project.

Teaching will almost be done one-on-one by the animation trainers to students who will learn animation in the classroom and in a laboratory equipped with computers and other facilities. For computer-assisted animation, the software the students will have to master are USAnimation (for 2D animation), Soft Image (for 3D Animation) and Kaydara (for motion capture). These programs are popular among film and video makers in the Americas.

At the end of the course, Cyclone will also help students land jobs. The demand for animators has been on the increase lately because of the popularity of computer animation in movies, videos and TV.

Bachand says computer animation started in the late '80s and most of the animation software was developed in Canada. USAnimation, SoftImage and Kaydara are samples. It reached a boom period in the early '90s and is still growing.

Cyclone was discovered by Donna Cancio-Le, a book and software distributor, during her visit to a trade fair in Canada. Since her company distributes USAnimation here, Le thought of training Filipino animators. "We could inspire Filipinos to become world-class animators."

Le met with Michael Le, who was responsible for forging the partnership between Cyclone in Canada and Cyclone here.

Today Donna Cancio-Le heads the school as president. Together with her group that includes Tom and Cynthia de Leon, Robert Tarnate and Michael Le, she plans to open three other Cyclone centers in the country.

June - August Courses

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LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
(Rockwell) • June 28 - September 8, 2001
Thurs & Fri 5:30pm - 8:30pm
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The program, which integrates management skills development, functional management training, and leadership development, enhances general management and leadership expertise, instills awareness of contemporary management, challenges and fortifies the response of managers to these challenges.

ENTREPRENUERSHIP

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BUILDING THE ENTERPRISE
(Salcedo) • July 2 - 6, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Monday - Friday

RETAIL MANAGEMENT

RETAIL STORE WARS
(Rockwell) • July 17 - 20, 2001
8:30am - 5:30pm • Tuesday - Friday

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

WORLD CLASS CONTRACTING
(Salcedo) • August 1 - 3, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Wednesday - Friday

MANAGING THE SMALLER BUSINESS
(Salcedo) • August 6 & 7, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Monday & Tuesday

PROJECT RISK MANAGEMENT
(Salcedo) • August 17 & 18, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Friday & Saturday

PROJECT MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS
(Salcedo) • August 24 & 25, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Friday & Saturday

LOGISTICS

CONTEMPORARY LOGISTICS
(Salcedo) • July 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 2001
6:00pm - 9:00pm (Friday)
9:00am - 5:00pm (Saturday)

DEMAND MANAGEMENT
(Salcedo) • August 10, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Friday

E-BUSINESS

E-BUSINESS FOR TECHNOPRENEURS
(Salcedo) • July 7, 9 - 10, 12 - 13, 2001
5:30pm - 8:30pm (Monday - Friday)
9:00am - 5:00pm (Saturday)

BANKING & FINANCE

ACCOUNTING FOR MANAGEMENT DECISION-MAKING
(Salcedo) • June 25 - 29, 2001
1:00pm - 5:00pm • Monday - Friday

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SERVICES
(Salcedo) • July 9 - 13, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Monday - Friday

PROBLEM LOAN PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT
(Salcedo) • July 23 - 26, 2001
9:00am - 5:00pm • Monday - Thursday

TECHNIQUES OF FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
(Salcedo) • August 6 - 10, 2001
1:00pm - 6:00pm (Monday - Wednesday)
9:00am - 5:00pm (Thursday - Friday)

FUNDAMENTALS OF CORPORATE FINANCE
(Salcedo) • August 13 - 17, 2001
1:00pm - 6:00pm (Monday - Wednesday)
9:00am - 5:00pm (Thursday - Friday)

CREDIT ANALYSIS & CREDIT PROCESS
(Salcedo) • August 20 - 24, 2001
1:00pm - 6:00pm (Monday - Wednesday)
9:00am - 5:00pm (Thursday - Friday)

TREASURY OPERATIONS
(Salcedo) • August 28 - 31, September 4 -5, 2001
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Diethelm Keller joint forces launched

DIETHELM & Co. Ltd. and Edward Keller Ltd. recently combined their strengths to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The companies formally announced the formation of the Diethelm Keller Group at the Manila Polo Club and at the Cebu Marriott Hotel at the beginning of the year. Both events were attended by key officers, service providers, as well as employees. In the Philippines, the group has been active for over 100 years, through Edward Keller (Philippines) Inc., Griffith Laboratories (Philippines) Inc., Diethelm (Philippines) Inc. and Blue Horizons Travel and Tours.

The symbol of the new Diethelm Keller group is the fan tree. Its branches and leaves form a circle that symbolizes the activities of both the Diethelm and the Keller group. The fan tree links the company to its Asian roots, while the color red represents their Swiss heritage.

Diethelm Keller's story began when Wilhelm Heinrich Diethelm and Eduard Anton Keller from the eastern part of Switzerland decided to try their luck in Asia. Keller left for the Philippines in 1868, while Diethelm traveled to Singapore in 1871. Diethelm joined Hoodlandt & Co. in Singapore and Keller found a job with Lutz & Co. in Manila. In 1877, Diethelm became a partner and later acquired the majority of Hoodlandt. By some twist of fate, Keller also became a partner and purchased 100 percent of Lutz & Co. in 1887.

As Diethelm Keller Holding Ltd. today, the company consists of four distinct businesses: Diethelm Keller Services Asia, Diethelm Keller Management and Investment, STA Travel and Diethelm Travel Asia. In the Philippines, and under the wings of Diethelm Keller Services Asia, are Edward Keller Philippines, Diethelm (Philippines) Inc., and Blue Horizons Travel and Tours, Inc.

Under the leadership of the 4th generation shareholders, Diethelm Keller Holding Ltd. continues to lead in the business industry, internationally and locally, offering services that meet the needs of today's customers.

venture of A
200
REVIEW

SMART RECEIVES 'FEER' LEADERSHIP AWARD

In the recent Review 200 awards night, Wireless services leader Smart Communications was cited as one on the Philippines' Top 10 Leading Corporations for 2000 by the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER). Smart previously won this award in 1998. The survey, which is on its eight year, was administered by AC Nielsen International Research (Hong Kong) and reflects readership perception of performances of more than 500 companies in 11 Asian countries, namely, Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. Above, former President Fidel V. Ramos, guest speaker during the recent Review 200 awards night in Hong Kong, presents Smart's plaque of recognition to Napoleon L. Nazareno, president and CEO of Smart.

UNIQUE THAMES SCHOOL

Parents interested in discovering the British educational system and having their kids earn foreign diplomas from various reputable state universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada can inquire about the unique curriculum offered by Thames International Business School. Michael Guico (above) has completed his first two years of studies and will proceed to a foreign campus of his choice. Mother Arlyn Grace Guico is excited about Michael graduating with a globally recognized foreign degree within the next two years. This educational concept is gaining popularity in regional Thames campuses in Hong Kong and Singapore. For more information call 723-2207 and 723-2208.

BITS & CLIPS

Demos at Julius Maggi Kitchen

THE JULIUS Maggi Kitchen (JMK) joins the excitement of a fresh academic year. To help parents prepare for the tasks, JMK offers back-to-school sessions today, June 19, 21 and 23. Featured are cooking demos on easy-to-prepare, healthy baons kids will enjoy. Sessions will be held at the Julius Maggi Kitchen on the ground floor of Nestle Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For reservations, call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

'Parada ng Lechon' in Batangas

THE "PARADA NG LECHON", an annual parade of roast pigs in Balayan, Batangas, will be held on June 24, with at least 200 roast pigs to be paraded—and later devoured—on the streets. Held in honor of St. John the Baptist, the parade is also marked by the traditional water splashing wherein everyone gets drenched during the merry-making. Preliminary activities start on Thursday, June 14 with the Miss Teen Hermanidad talent night, followed by the talent night for Mr. Teen Hermanidad on June 15.

Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001

"BREAKING market barriers to enable e-business in the wireless future" is the theme of Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001. Preparing the entrepreneurs for the future of the Internet is the main focus of the Expo that starts today until June 17 at the Philippine Trade Training Center. The highlights includes the trade show for connectivity and convergence solutions and technologies, and an XML and Java scripting seminar. For inquiries, call 896-0689, 899-6893, 751-5200 or 752-3936. Send e-mail to fieram2@info.com.ph or emedia@info.com.ph.

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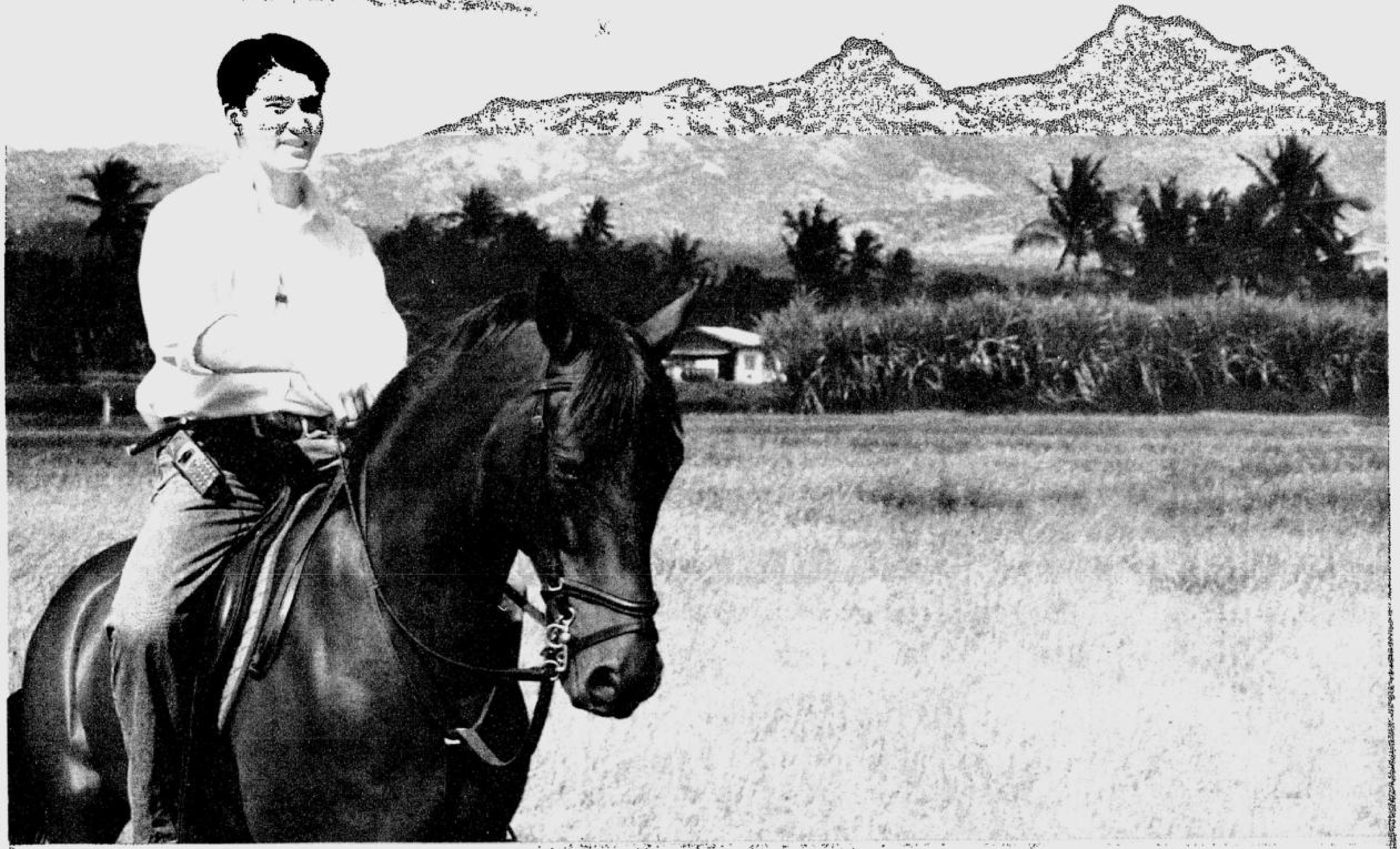

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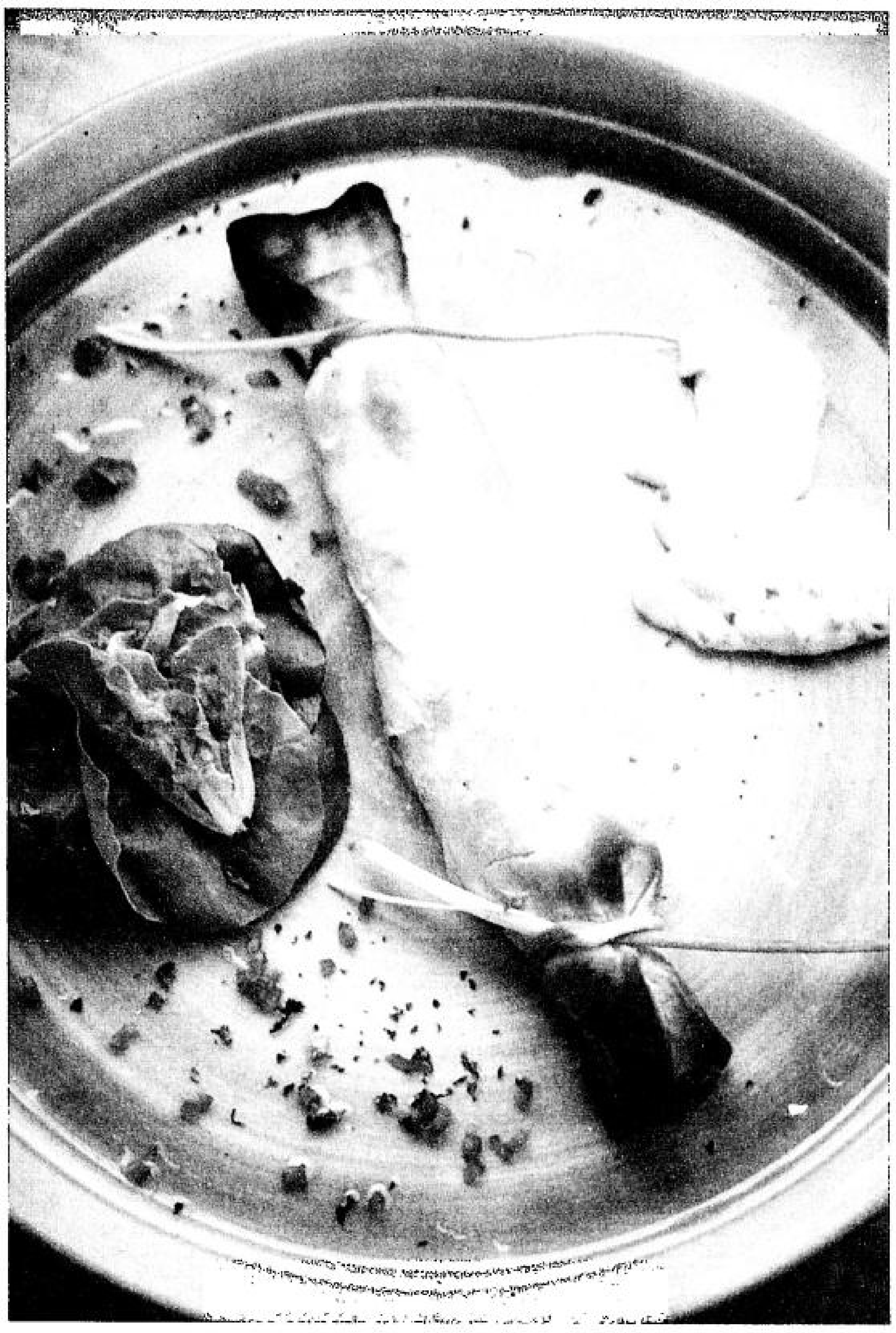
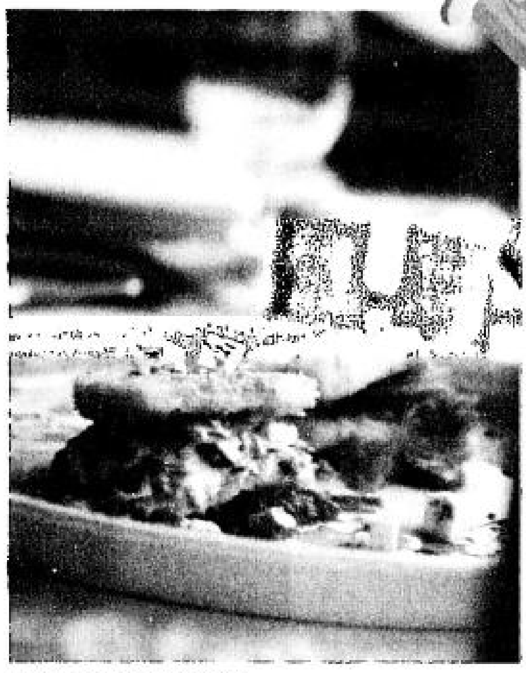

THE PEERLESS
Phylo Crab


EAST MEETS WEST. A duet of nutritious tofu cooked in two ways

Fine dining comes to C5

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

You're bound to bump into a celebrity at Cena, the only place in Libis that serves fondue and paella

FROM A DISTANCE one is drawn to the signage of this fine dining haven that is cast in brass against deep lavender and black, exuding a class all its own. Stepping into its cool, elegant confines is a welcome break from the heat and din of the traffic below. The names of its owners read like a veritable political who's who. Thus it comes as no surprise that this cozy, stylish restaurant is frequented by the likes of former Interior Secretary Raffy Alunan, former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and Rep. Mike Defensor.

Back in December, a group of friends with a passion for food decided to band together to create a place where one can partake of meals that are so good they make one wobbly at the knees.

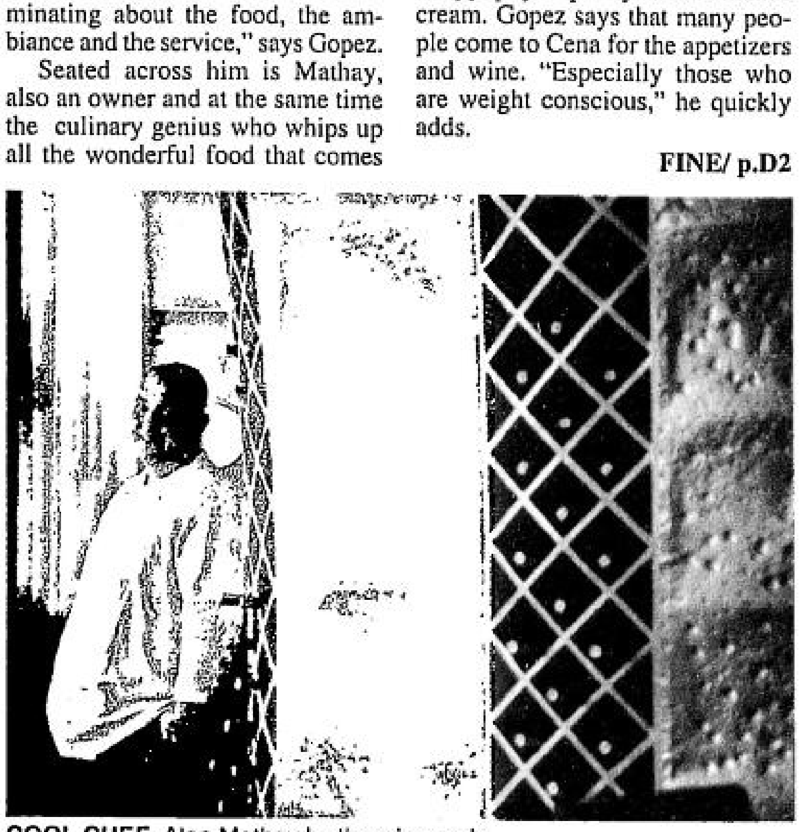
Cena, a fine dining restaurant that specializes in European cuisine on bustling C5 in Libis, is owned by Lovell Gopez, Alan Mathay, Miko de Villa, Paula Locsin, Eliza Antonino, Ditrie Villacorta, Von TanGana and Johann Ramos, all enterprising and twentysomething.

"Since we opened Cena we've either stopped dining in other places or, when do, we've become discriminating about the food, the ambiance and the service," says Gopez.

Seated across him is Mathay, also an owner and at the same time the culinary genius who whips up all the wonderful food that comes out of Cena's kitchen. Schooled in pastry making and the culinary art at the world-famous Le Cordon Bleu in London, Mathay describes Cena's menu as a mixture of Mediterranean, Italian and Spanish cuisine. "We are the only place here on C5 that offers fondue and paella," Mathay says with pride. "Sometimes, people also come for the wine or our desserts."

Cena's menu is enough to make one drool. Begin the meal with the East-West Tofu, which is tofu cooked in two ways: with vermicelli in a sweet and spicy sauce or with mushroom ragout topped with feta cheese on tomato sauce. Another popular appetizer is the Phylo Crab, which is a heavenly mix of crabsticks with mango, cucumber and Japanese mayonnaise wrapped in crispy phylo pastry with cilantro cream. Gopez says that many people come to Cena for the appetizers and wine. "Especially those who are weight conscious," he quickly adds.

FINE/ p.D2


COOL CHEF. Alan Mathay by the wine rack

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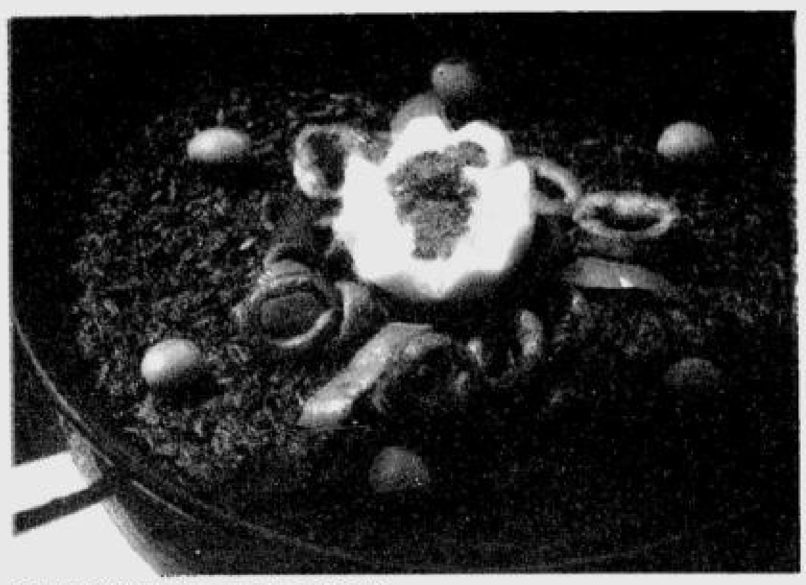
Fine dining comes to C5

(From page D1)

If you are a soup person, Cena has a treasure trove of soups to satisfy your cravings—Tomato, Pumpkin, traditional French Onion, Cream of Broccoli and the Wild Mushroom Soup, which is a delightful blend of button and shiitake mushrooms and cream. Likewise, there is a wide choice of salads and pastas—Vongole, Ciopino, Sardina, Smoked Salmon and Capers, to name a few.

Cena is also one of the few places in Metro Manila that serves Black Paella. Its pan-seared Chilean sea bass with spinach, asparagus, carrots, zucchini and mandarin orange sauce is sheer heaven for seafood lovers. For beef and chicken lovers there is also a wide range of entrées to choose from. Cena prides itself for serving Barbecued Beef Ribs, served with Mathay's special sauce, the Duck Breast and the Chicken Saltimbocca, an oven-baked fillet of chicken breast stuffed with Parma ham and mozzarella served with sesame-infused rice.



BLACK IS IN. Cena's Black Paella

Dramatic interiors

With good food, impeccable service and an impressive wine list (a whole range of Italian, Australian, Spanish, Californian, French and Chilean), the ambiance at Cena is a bonus. Dominant colors are lavender, gold and beige, and paintings by various masters adorn its walls. Light and sheer curtains cover full-length windows that provide a view of the street below. In the evenings, hurricane candles gently flicker on top of wooden beige tables, giving the place a romantic, elegant touch.

Dining at Cena is certainly a refreshing change from the fast-food joints, smoky bars and grill places that dot the C5 strip. If you are out to impress your date, this is the ideal place to come to but make sure to bring adequate funds. A full-course dinner for two will easily set you off by P1,000 to P1,500. However, during the day, Cena draws in the lunchtime crowd from the nearby offices and villages by offering lunch specials at P200 per person.

SEA SPLENDOR. Pan-seared Chilean sea bass with spinach, asparagus and carrots

The crowd at Cena varies depending on time and day. Lunch guests on weekdays are the office crowd and ladies who lunch. Weeknights, it is filled with families, couples, businessmen and politicians. On weekends it transforms from a dinner place (from 6-10 p.m.) for families to a bar where young people like to congregate, drink fine wine and talk.

One thing is certain though. On any given evening, one is certain to bump into a familiar figure from show business, politics or government. That's because Cena has become the place on C5 to see and be seen.

Cena is open daily (except Mondays) for lunch (11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.), and dinner (6 p.m.-12 midnight). Call 912-6014.

E-mail the author at cbguballa @inquirer.com.ph

Daddy's day out

DINING OUT

KIMPURA offers Japanese dishes this Father's Day along with a free bottle of French wine for a minimum food bill of P3,500. Kimpura outlets are located at the 2/L Glorietta 2, Makati City and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan.

PEKING GARDEN'S Hong Kong chefs have prepared a set Northern Chinese lauriat for Father's Day that includes Fish Lips with Shredded Chicken Soup, its famous Peking Duck, Crispy Vegetables with Dried Scallops and Shrimp Balls, Deep-fried Boneless Lapu-lapu with Fruity Sauce, Braised Sea Cucumber with Chili Sauce, Steamed Crabs with Tsing Tao Beer, Fried Rice with Chicken and Yunan Ham. Set menu is available on June 15-17. Peking Garden is at the 2/L Glorietta 2, Makati City. Call 817-9066/67.

JADE GARDEN offers a special VIP set menu for 10 persons consisting of Suckling Pig with Roasted Meat Combination, Fish Lips with Sea Cucumber Soup, Shrimps with Chicken and Broccoli, Oil-simmered Pink Lapu-lapu, Black Mushrooms with Seasonal Vegetables, Sweet and Sour Pork, Peppercorn Crabs and Yeung Chow Fried Rice with a free bottle of French wine. Set menu is available on June 15-17. Jade Garden is at Greenbelt Mall, Makati City. Call 892-2319/2636.

MARIO'S offers a wide assortment of dishes like Caesar's Salad, Roast Beef, Paella and more this Father's Day. Fathers are also invited to join the "Putt-for-a-Prize" promo. Call 634-3417/19 (Ortigas), 415-3887 or 372-0360 (Quezon City) or (074) 442-5445/7445 (Baguio).

OUTBACK guarantees Dad nothing less than a bonzer time on his day, with its hearty servings of Aussie-inspired dishes, topbilled by its famous steaks, ribs, chops, pasta and more. Treat him to his favorite Australian wine or beer such as Wallaby Darned and the Big Bloke Draft. Outback throws in a P250 gift certificate that Dad can use on his next visit. Outback branches are located in Glorietta 4, Makati City, Libis in QC and Alabang Town Center.

T.G.I. FRIDAYS offers "WOW" servings of American-style dishes and rich beverage collection. T.G.I. Friday's caps it off with a fun caricature that Dad can take home for free plus a P250 gift certificate that he can use on his next visit. T.G.I. Friday's are in Glorietta, Ortigas, Malate, Quezon City and Alabang.

ITALIANNI'S offers dads a chance to spend a free overnight stay at any ASB Condotel in Makati. He can choose from any of its chains—the Prince Plaza 2, Asian Mansion 2, Perla Mansion and BSA Mansion. Simply bring him over to Italianni's, and treat him to the restaurant's great food and service. The promo runs until June 16 and the raffle draw is on June 17. Call 892-2897.

TOQUE! has a variety of menu items sure to score points with Poppa: Barbecue Pork Spareribs, Seafood Skewers in Lemon Butter Sauce, Coq au Vin, Lasagna Bolognese and Baked Oysters with Sautéed Spinach and Hollandaise Sauce. And who can resist stopping by the Carving Section serving the most tender and juicy New Zealand Roast Rib Eye with Beef Au Jus? Call 373-4737/ 3705 or 374-4597. Toque! is at 103 Dr. Lazcano St., QC

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO offers "A Toast to Dad!" at lunch and dinner at The Cafe, Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, Benkay Japanese Restaurant and Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant, or dinner at Paulaner German Restaurant. Dads will enjoy a complimentary glass of red or white wine. Dusit also has a special room package on June 16-18, and complimentary wine on Father's Day. Dads will also have a chance to win gifts and prizes upon check-in with Dusit's "Pick-a-Prize" for all fathers. Call 819-2559, 867-3333 local 3131/3133 or 3301/3304

MANILA GALLERIA'S RAPHAEL CAFÉ-RESTAURANT presents a special sit-down lunch and dinner buffet for dads and the whole family, with gifts from Entrepreneur Magazine. Lucky diners may even be chosen to win special items from Florsheim, Marks & Spencer and Blue Label. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

SBARRO, the Italian Eatery, offers oversized pizza and hefty pasta this Father's Day, plus roasted chicken, hearty salads and dessert. Sbarro branches are located at SM City, SM Megamall, Glorietta 2, Robinsons Place and Festival Supermall. On your first visit, you get a "Back for More" card, for a minimum purchase of P175. Earn the necessary number of stamps and get Sbarro food products for free.

BURGOO is treating dads with a free glass of wine with every order of steak or any rib products. Special menu offerings include Lemon Peppered Grilled Lapu-Lapu, Sizzling Fajitas, Sta. Fe Spring Rolls, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Seafood Chef Salad, Supreme Pizza, Angel Hair Classico, Oreo Cheesecake, etc. Burgoo has branches at Tomas Morato, QC and the newly opened branch located at the 3/L Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 927-7424/7384 or 898-1815 to -17.

CRAVINGS outlets in Katipunan, Wilson, Shangri-La and Robinsons Place Ermita have prepared a special set menu for fathers that includes Pan-seared Tenderloin of Beef with Crushed Peppercorns, or Baked Grouper with Bacon-Mustard Sauce, both served with Spaghetti Carbonara and Sautéed Vegetables. To cap a sumptuous meal, there's a generous slice of mango cheesecake plus a cup of coffee or tea.

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen has whipped up another extra delight for all the fathers on Father's Day. For every order of P1,000 worth of food and drinks, all fathers dining at CPK will get a free White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake for dessert. CPK has branches at the Glorietta, Makati City, and at the Alabang Town Center. CPK delivers. Call 893-9999/9898 or 850-6752/5771.

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AA-02-01-PI1

Chowtime in the Crown Colony

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

IT began with breakfasts: yes, plural, three of them, to be precise. I had relinquished my usual germanic control over itineraries, hotels, and so on, because I was tagging along with a group of young, single women who were going to Hong Kong to shop. I suspect they invited me because they needed someone to carry parcels for them and suchlike, but the prospect of sharing a hotel room with a couple of nubile girls was not an unattractive prospect, so I decided to go. This is how I found myself staggering onto a plane at the ungodly hour of 7 a.m., which, as everyone knows, is around the time when civilized people are just preparing to climb into bed.

I had watched "Pearl Harbor" (which I must say, for the record, is the most execrable three hours that I've spent at the cinemas in recent history) the night before; I packed, and headed straight for the airport, where I had *longganisa*, rice and fried eggs at the departure lounge. On the plane, there was a mysterious substance which, with considerable imagination, could be identified as an omelette. Upon arrival I headed straight for the Peninsula lobby, where I had croissants with butter and honey, poached eggs, English bacon and a strong pot of tea. I crawled into bed and promptly fell asleep.

A few hours later I woke up and found the room transformed into a boudoir. Every conceivable surface had been occupied by eyelash curlers, blush poufs, hairbrushes and instruments that looked like they might be used for extracting frog's ovaries. The floor was littered with strappy sandals, thongs, slides, and (to prove my masculinity by not seeming too conversant with female apparel) those thingamajigs with the heel that goes under the whatchamacallit. The women had arrived on a later flight, checked in, and executed what military historians will remember as *Anschluss*.

I had spent all my money in Paris, so my wishes were simple: a quick stroll down Hollywood Road to scope out rugs and furniture; a few little odds and ends from the bric-a-brac stalls on Cat Street; a visit to HMV for music and Swindon's for books. I hadn't realized, though, that I was with professionals. These girls made lists. They attacked Joyce and Lane Crawford with methodical precision, with schedules and maps and arrows. I wouldn't have been at all surprised if one of them had taped up battle plans on the walls with colored pins to show infantry divisions and territory already covered: "Tomorrow morning, at dawn, we launch a pincer movement on the Wan Chai district."

Meanwhile, I ate. One of the girls was marginally less interested in shopping than the others, so after lunch at the basement dimsum restaurant of the Holiday Inn (where they have excellent congee), we made our way to City Super, where we had salmon sushi, a bowl of Japanese udon, those candied octopi on seaweed and pearl milk tea. We bought some provisions just in case we got peckish later in the night: which did happen; we had caviar with blinis and clotted cream, applejack cereal and melon-flavored soy milk.

The next day, I made reservations for Vong in the evening. Since the girls were busy figuring out how to carry 11 shopping bags from Hermes and Prada in one hand, I decided to investigate the interesting food shops that line Haiphong Road. There's a stall that sells corn with margarine, quail eggs with spiced salt, and a muddy green herb juice that looked like it floated up from a sewer (quite good, actually). A few steps down in a stall where they grill waffles and a long, curled sausage made from rolled-up intestines; for $5, they'll slice off five pungent round and spear them on a stick (best eaten with mustard, hot sauce, and the lack of a sense of smell). Just around the corner is the Sweet Dessert Shop, which sells, well, guess what? Mechanical spare parts? They have a list of various hot and cold soup-like desserts; I can vouch for the Sweet Lotus Nuts and the Sweet Almond Cream.

> 'While the girls were busy figuring out how to carry 11 shopping bags from Hermes and Prada in one hand, I decided to investigate the interesting food shops'

Vong was, as usual, trendy, pricey and a little weird, but enjoyable, in the way that watching midgets perform oral sex is enjoyable. We had drinks at Felix, went home, and found ourselves hungry again, so we ate La Paz Bachoy into which we soaked the leftover blinis and dunked some shrimp dumplings from 7-11; which, if you think about it, completed the theme of fusion food for that evening. I vowed that the next meals would be consecrated to the purity of classical Chinese cooking. I made reservations for Spring Moon, the Chinese restaurant at the Peninsula.

I can think of no single more romantic Chinese restaurant than Spring Moon, with its teapots silhouetted against white panels, its colonial-style décor, its adorably hideous rugs splayed on a polished wooden floor. It's quiet and elegant, and, most importantly, has menus designed for one or two persons, so that you don't have the usual problem of monotonously eating a huge basin of prawns for dinner, or having a ton of leftovers, which is what generally happens when couples try and eat at a Chinese restaurant. The seafood dinner, at $650 a head, is a bargain: huge dollops of shark's fin in a crab-roe soup, steamed garoupa with melting flesh that tore like soft linen between one's teeth..

Chili and more

But, lo! I have saved the best for last. If Spring Moon be the Taillevent of Chinese cuisine, then let me tell you about the L'Epi Dupin. Just as some highly trained French chefs went off and opened small, cozy bistros where they served imaginative food at affordable prices, there is a similar trend now in Hong Kong, and the latest of these is Shui Hu Ju, where I ate with Alexandra Seno, an old friend who is now an editor at Asiaweek. In the hilly district near Hollywood Road, off a small sidestreet, you'll suddenly find a pair of antique wooden doors. Pull them open, and you'll find yourself in a scene from "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon." It's a tiny space, dimly lit with lantern-sconces, and beautiful wooden furniture that the proprietor designed himself. Some of the tables are glass-topped, are lit from underneath with a candle, and have goldfish swimming around in the porcelain bases. The waitresses are in beautiful silk dresses; the chef is in period costume and, I kid you not, has a queue.

And the food? Like La Regalade or L'Os a Moelle, it's a version of *cuisine de terroir* interpreted by the chef's fancy. The *terroir* in question is more or less northern, the Beijing and Szechuan regional foods that have steamed wheat buns or noodles, rather than rice, as their staple starch. But the *man to*, or steamed buns, were not quite the usual: I suspect they had been made from rice flour rather than wheat, and had been pulled, almost in the way that noodles are pulled in order to knead them. The chef, Calvin Yeung, brought us some grilled aubergines and jellyfish, both of which were searingly spicy. He laughed when we asked for cold water, and instead brought us more chili.

The star of the evening, though, was unquestionably the mutton, which we had ordered from a selection of meats that included Seared Soft Palate and Spicy Pig's Throat. The mutton came as flat rectangles, with crisped skin, like a Peking duck, but was soft and wobbly underneath. There was more chili sauce to go with it, which you scraped off the bowls with the buns. We also had slices of a vegetable which the menu listed mysteriously as jade, which he explained was a special vegetable grown only in a certain region of China, but which tasted like high-tech *sayote* to me. There was only one dessert available, a somewhat lackluster pumpkin soup; if this is the Chinese version of L'Epi Dupin, they need a counterpart to the Laduree dessert rooms. They then kicked us out to give way to the second seating.

Back at the hotel, we maneuvered our way around a room that was beginning to resemble a refugee camp for deposed royalty: Prada, Tod's, Godiva, Lesage, G2000, Bossini, and Mong Kok bags surrounded the beds. The girls compared the underwear they had acquired, and I assisted the appraisal with dispassionate detachment. While they were packing, I huddled in a corner with my stuff: I had bought two books, on Escher and Klimt, a few CDs and a cable for my flashbulb. As the taxi arrived at the airport, I feigned a vague motion of reaching for my wallet; in truth, I was literally down to my last $20.

"You want to go to Italy next?" one of the girls asked me. "I hear the shopping's great in Florence." Myself, I've heard good things about the restaurants. This time, though, I'm drawing up the schedules.

Shui Hu Ju Restaurant. Shop E, G/F, 51A Graham Street, Central, HK. (862) 2869 6978. Reservations recommended.

E-mail the author at Clinton@i-manila.com.ph

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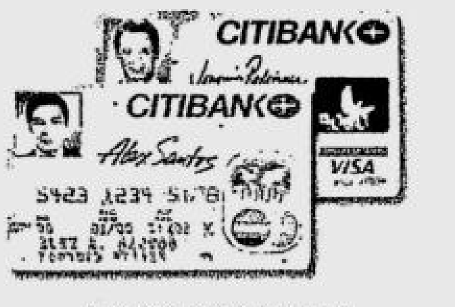

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

June 14 (Thur) 9:00-12:30, P1,200 QUICK BREADS by: Heny Sison, *Apple Walnut Loaf, Banana Nut Bread, Zucchini Bread, Apple-Cinnamon Muffins, Dark Moist Bran Muffins and Carrot Muffins

June 14, (Thur) 1:30-5:00, P1,500 BAKED PASTA by: Aileen Anastacio, owner of Ces't Si Bon and Goodies & Sweets, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy, * Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta

June 15 (Fri) 9:00-1:00, P1,200 DESSERT SOUFFLES by: Heny Sison, * Chocolate Caramel Soufflé, Banana Praline Soufflé, Dark Mocha Soufflé with Ice Cream & Mocha Sauce, Apple Soufflés, Hot Lemon Soufflés & Chocolate Praline Soufflé

June 15 (Fri) 1:30-5:00, P1,500 SOFT PRETZEL WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison * Learn how to make hand rolled soft pretzels with a variety of toppings & dippings. Cinnamon Sugar, Whole Wheat Soft Pretzels, Poppy Seed, Coarse Salt and Sesame Seeds. Match them with cream cheese, caramel & soft cheese dippings.

June 16 (Sat) 9:30-4:00, P1,200 DESIGNER PIZZA & CALZONE by: Jill Sandique * Chef / Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Bluu Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. Classic Cheeze Pizza, Thai Chicken Pizza, Peking Duck Pizza, Goat Cheese Pizza, Shrimp Scampi Pizza, Smoked Salmon Pizza & Mou ShuCalzone

June 18-22 (Mon-Fri) 9:00-12:00, P6,000 LAMBETH CONTINENTAL COURSE by: Heny Sison * The course covers: the intricate overpiping borders on royal icing and fondant covered cakes. Students decorate cakes using combination of overpiped borders and tiny flowers. Master and Advanced Cake Decoration are pre-requisite for this course. Full participation.

June 18-22 (Mon-Fri) 1:30-5:00, P5,000 FUNDAMENTALS OF PASTRY & DESSERTS by: Heny Sison * This fundamental course covers the basic theories and techniques of pastry work. Once the classical methods are learned creativity can be exercised. The week curriculum covers: doughs and batters, custard & creams, tarts & pies, cakes, fillings and buttercream, French pastries, chocolates, bread, ice cream, sorbet & cones.

June 23 (Sat) 9:30-4:00, P1,500 CREPE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique * Learn the techniques of crepe making in this full participation class. On the menu: Crepe Suzette, Strawberry Crepe, Mango-Pandan Crepe, Crepe a la Mode, Spinach Roulade, Beggars Purses and Chicken Mushroom Crepe

June 25 (Mon) 9:30-4:00, P1,500 DIMSUM II by: Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat) caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine * Steamed Pork Spareribs in Tausi Sauce, Chicken Siomai, Sharksfin Siomai, Two Colors Siomai, Wanton Mami & dessert

June 26, (Tue) 9:30-4:00, P1,200 GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN by: Jill Sandique * Angel Food Cake, Date Walnut Bars, Monkey Bread, Apfelkuchen, Chocolate Pecan Cookies and Marble Pound Cake

June 27, (Wed) 9:00-12:30, P1,200 WAFFLES EVERYWHERE by: Heny Sison * Learn how to make Sweet & Savory waffles: Recipes: Liege Waffle, Cinnamon Waffle, Brussels Waffle, Chocolate Cream Waffle, Tuna Melt Waffle and Pesto Salami Waffle

June 27, (Wed) 1:30-5:00, P1,500 THE MANY WAYS TO COOK CHICKEN II by: Aileen Anastacio * Oriental Chicken Salad, Corn & Chicken Soup, Chicken Lasagne, Chicken Kiev, Chicken Marsala & Roasted Pesto Chicken

June 28, (Thur) 9:00-12:30, P1,200 THE ART OF LOW FAT DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique * Individual Banana Soufflé with Cinnamon Sugar, Lemon Angel Food Cake with Raspberry Compote, Devil's Food Cake with Boiled Icing, Apple Yogurt Coffee Cake, Banana Ginger Loaf, Prune & Apricot Coffee Cake & Carrot Cake

June 28, (Thur) 1:30-5:00, P1,500 PASTA GALORE by: Aileen Anastacio * Learn all-time favorites pasta dishes. Recipes: Pasta Puttanesca, Pasta Carbonara, Spaghetti with Meatballs Seafood, Pasta with Tomato Cream and Vongole

June 29, (Fri) 10:00-4:00, P1,500 CHINESE COOKING MADE EASY II by: Katherine Sion * West Lake Soup, Oyster Cake, Sizzling Shrimps w/ Tomato & Celery, Fried Crispy Noodles with Chopseuy and Sweet & Sour Pork

June 30, (Sat) 9:30-4:00, P2,000 FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES by: Glenn Remorca * Make fresh floral arrangement for birthdays, baptismal, anniversaries in different styles and materials. Sourcing of materials included. Demo and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors

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June 16, (Sat) 1:00-5:00, P1,200 SPECIAL CAKES * Coffee Crunch, Tiramisu, Black Forest Cake, Nelusco, Mocha Cake with Mocha Filling & Icing, Rum Walnut Cake

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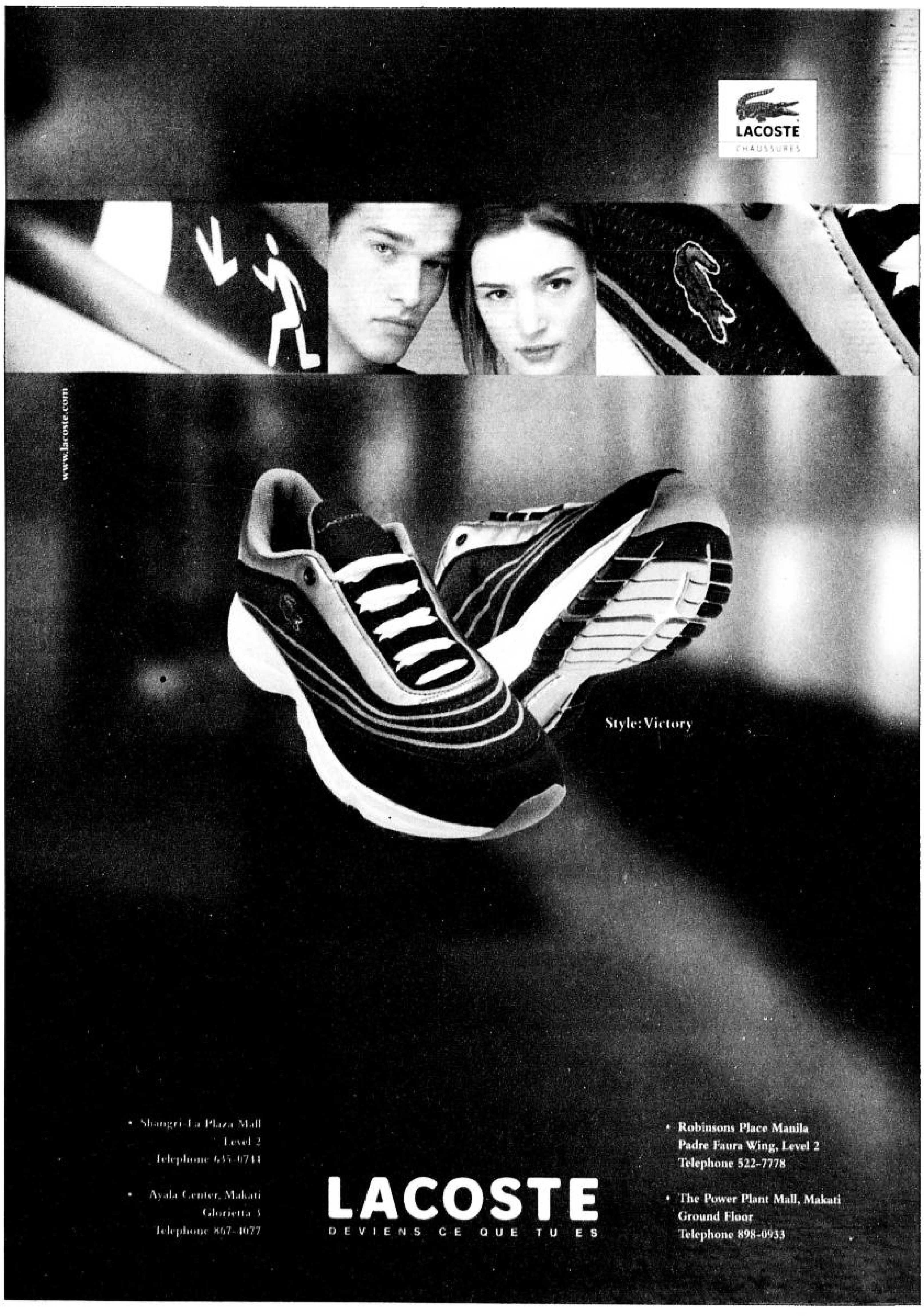

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LECHON Refrito

Priority project

Myrna Segismundo's restaurant-club on the 14th floor of the new ABS-CBN building is exclusive to the network's executives and managers and their guests

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

IF you owned a restaurant, what would you name it? Where would you go to find a name? To the family (Alba's), the location (Bulacan Grill), the country of origin (New Europe), an incident (Aboy's in Bacolod got its name from the exclamation, "It's a boy!" when the owner was born), the type of food served (Kambingan ni Isko)?

This one is a restaurant not yet open to the public (our visit was a preview), and it is named after the project number: 9501. It reigns on the 14th floor of the new Andy Locsin-designed ABS-CBN building (Eugenio Lopez Jr. Avenue; tel. 411-1434).

Most importantly, it is the new aerie of Myrna Segismundo, and that tells all.

The food is superb, and none of it, Myrna swears, was served in Sign of the Anvil, which she ran for 16 years. This is a new chapter in her career. Can the recipes be found in your "Party Cookbook"? we teased. No, was the answer: this is all new. But we have tasted your Hainanese Chicken Rice, which is in the cookbook, we persisted. Aha! This one is different; it is boneless.

MYRNA Segismundo

MICHAELA Fenix

NORMA Olizon Chiklamco

KARINA Bolasco

Restaurant 9501 is exclusive to members of the ABS-CBN management and their guests. There are other outlets and food occasions, however: A cafeteria for performers, crew, etc.; catering for shows being rehearsed or filmed; meetings on other levels of the building—all will be within Myrna's area of responsibility.

We were gathered at 9501 by Micky Fenix, who has recently merged her expertise in computers with that in food by doing a food webpage for ABS-CBN. We brainstormed about an essay-writing contest for college hotel and restaurant management students in connection with the Chefs on Parade of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Phils. in September.

There is nothing better than to eat good food and talk about food at the same time, and so Myrna, Micky, Karina Bolasco of Anvil Publishing, Norma Chikiamco of Food Magazine and I savored every morsel, word and new idea. On the table and in the air swirled plans for new cookbooks (Omay and Myrna), a food dictionary (Karina and me), case studies of restaurants old and new (Karina and Myrna), and the essay contest (all of us).

Restaurant-club 9501 had not yet opened formally, and was actually the only furnished and completed floor in the building. (Chair Gabby Lopez's office in the penthouse is still being furnished.)

We had the place to ourselves, and wandered in curiosity and delight through the large lobby, the restaurant proper, the function rooms, the spa, the mini theater for showing training films, food films and documentaries, or whatever—perhaps while eating gourmet popcorn, joked Myrna. And the kitchen: Large and gleaming, completely efficient and tuned to Myrna and her team's way of working.

And then there's the view. From that unobstructed height, one saw mountains in the distance, the sea, even Laguna de Bay; Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Makati, etc., and of course sunsets over Manila Bay. One almost does not need paintings on the wall, but those it will have, as well as pieces of sculpture.

To end the suspense: what did we eat? Hainanese Chicken and Rice, complete from soup, steamed chicken-flavored rice and sliced boneless chicken to the requisite sauces—soy, grated ginger in oil, chili.

Lechon refried and treated like Peking duck. One lined a thin crepe with a balsamic reduction sauce, piled strands of *lechon* on it, added *singkamas* and radishes and greens if desired, wrapped it up and swooned.

Broccoli mimosa, dark green and golden with finely chopped eggs. A salad of assorted greens with a mustard dressing sparked by a hint of anchovy.

For dessert: An apple crumble, the apples sweet and crunchy.

All were served family style, with plates passed around by ourselves and by the super-efficient waiters as the talk flowed, bubbled and flew.

Food that can make one remember, think, plan and dream, conversation that makes the food both trigger and target. Together in mission and perfection. What else could one ask for?